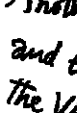


FROM TOM WALKER IN BRUSSELS

Continued on page 14, col 5

Another whiskey
and easy on
the VAT...



Zaman

BY JILL SHERMAN AND COLIN NARBROUGH

At the same time, David Kern, the National Westminster Bank's chief economist, said that unemployment, now standing at over 830,000 in London and the South-east, would rise to one million in late spring, much of it coming from the financial ser-

Mr Jackson's lawyers say they are ready to appear in court so that the jury can see for itself that he is not the "scared phantom whose face is covered with scar tissues, with a hole in one cheek higher than the other and oddly sagging chin." They say Jackson, 33, was deeply upset by the articles, published in late June of this month and accompanied by photographs by the *Mirror*. Lennor, who is also being sued by Bertram Fields, Mr Jackson's legal adviser, announced the action yesterday, saying, "I've been with dozens of times in the past year in brightly lit rooms without

Leaving the ship: David Coleridge flanked by two "waiters" in traditional red dress, on his way out of the Lloyd's building yesterday.

**FROM JAMIE DETTMER
IN WASHINGTON**

Propaganda victory, page 8
Leading article, page 11

BY PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

Some 7,000 children are adopted in England Wales every year; of whom about 1,000 are under a year old. The adoption law says that the local authority must take into account as its first consideration the interests of the child. In pursuing that duty, councils often try to match the approximate age of the potential parents with that of the natural mother. Because there are thousands more potential adopters than children, the older the couples the less chance they have.

BY JONATHAN PRYNN

Another speaker drew an analogy with the Titanic when the first class passengers grabbed places on lifeboats, leaving third-class passengers to drown.

£800m shortfall, page 15

BY HELEN JOHNSTONE

The Director of Public Prosecutions is seeking fines or orders for sequestration of assets against Channel 4 and Box Productions Ltd for contempt of a court order, made under the anti-terrorism laws, requiring them to hand

Andrew Collins, QC, for the DPP, said a researcher had made considerable efforts to check the source's credibility and truthfulness, but added: "It may well be they had sufficient evidence to justify what was broadcast, but to say this was conclusive is to display a certain degree of arrogance."

Source kept secret page 2

BY JOE JOSEPH

very substantial damage," says Julia Palca, Mr. Jagger's lawyer. "Yes, he is a gery, but that's not an action. Plastic surgery is a personal taste. The question is, is he a disfigured person with a scarred face? And no, he is not. He is deeply handsome, which could do great things for his professional career."

So will the jury be closely to see if he has "I suppose so," she closed that when Mr. British leg of his wife tomorrow, no photo

son's British law-
has had plastic sur-
point of this libel
ry is a matter of
point of this action
phantom with a
ost definitely he is
set by the slurs,
at damage to his

separate action filed yesterday, Mr Lennox is suing the *Mirror* for breach of contract. He claims that the newspaper's written agreement not to sell photographs it took of Mr Jack is more than once. Mr Lennox plans to contest both the action and the alleged breach of

**Shame about the music,
L&T section, page 1
Media, L&T page 8**



Jackson: rejects claims that he is disfigured

A black and white illustration of a man in a hat riding a camel at night. The camel is facing left, and the rider is looking back over his shoulder. The background is a dark, starry sky with a large, textured, dark shape on the left side. The ground is sandy with some small stones.

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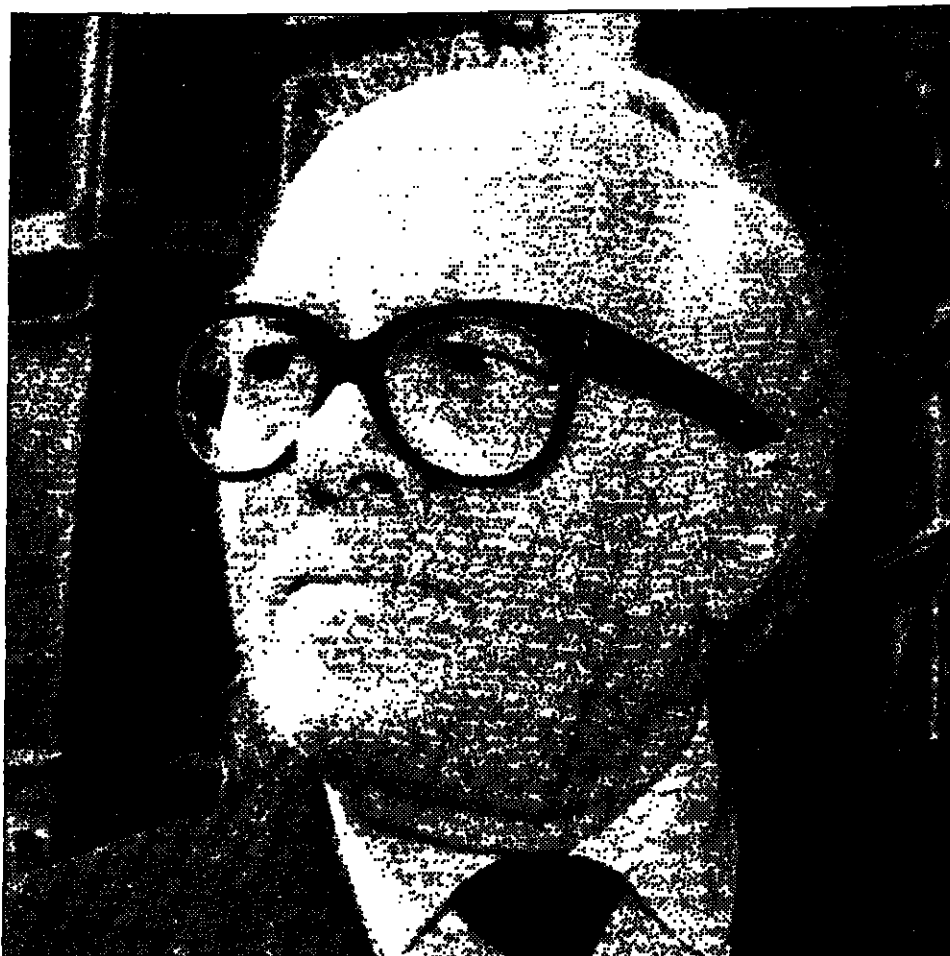
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Channel 4 accused of contempt under terrorism laws

Journalist kept Ulster source secret



Michael Grade, left, and Sir Richard Attenborough, arriving yesterday for the trial, the first use of the Prevention of Terrorism Act to force journalists to reveal their sources

BY RICHARD FORD
HOME CORRESPONDENT

A TELEVISION researcher vowed that he would go to prison rather than disclose the identity of a source which provided high-level collusion between the RUC and Loyalist death squads in Northern Ireland, the High Court was told yesterday.

Ben Hamilton, the researcher, gave the assurance to the informant after considerable efforts had been made by the programme makers to check the credibility and truthfulness of the source, said Andrew Collins, QC, for the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Mr Collins said the programme makers displayed a "degree of arrogance" in saying they had sufficient cor-

roboration of the allegations that amounted to conclusive evidence of links between the Royal Ulster Constabulary and Loyalist paramilitaries resulting in at least 20 sectarian murders.

The DPP is seeking fines or orders for the sequestration of assets against Channel 4 and the programme makers, Box Productions, for not handing over documents to the authorities as required under anti-terrorism legislation.

In the first case in which the Prevention of Terrorism Act has been used in an attempt to force journalists to reveal their sources, the DPP is bringing contempt charges against Channel 4 for its refusal to disclose the identity of a person named only as Source A.

The programme, entitled *The Committee*, was broadcast on *Dispatches* last October and alleged that the Ulster Loyalist Co-ordinating Committee liaised with members of a group known as the Inner Force, which included high-ranking RUC officers, and was responsible for passing on information about suspected IRA terrorists.

Sir Richard Attenborough, Channel 4's chairman, Michael Grade, its chief executive, Sir Michael Bishop, the chairman-elect, and David Lloyd, the commissioning

editor, were at the High Court for the case, which is being heard by Lord Justice Woolf and Mr Justice Fitt.

Mr Collins said that if the allegations were true they were of the utmost seriousness and, whether true or not, would affect the inhabitants of Northern Ireland and stir up considerable misgivings in the Roman Catholic community.

He said the Prevention of Terrorism Act contained exceptional and what had been described as draconian provisions. People who investigated terrorism had to do so in

the knowledge that they would commit a serious criminal offence if they did not pass to the authorities information about those involved in terrorist activities.

Channel 4 and Box Productions, independent producers, decided not to disclose documents which would have established the identity of Source A, who claimed to be a member of the Ulster Loyalist Co-ordinating Committee.

Source A alleged that the committee, consisting of 60 members, was responsible for identifying the targets to be

killed. The programme also alleged that about one-third of RUC members were "disaffected" and supported this approach, Mr Collins said.

He added that in spite of the legal duty to inform the authorities of those connected with terrorist activities, the transcript of the conversation with Source A was handed over with two pages edited to protect the informant's identity. The source had insisted on anonymity before agreeing to talk and claimed he would be eliminated if his identity became known. Only when the researcher who in-

terviewed him promised that he would go to jail rather than reveal his name was he willing to talk.

Mr Collins said that in transcripts of interviews with Source A, the informant said that within the Inner Force was a group known as the Inner Council who were more militant Loyalist members of the RUC, that other officers felt their point of view was not getting across to the British government, and that a lot of them were not happy at being dictated to by civil servants.

Source A alleged that the Ulster Loyalist Co-ordinating Committee comprised representatives of the Ulster Independence Party, the Inner Force, Ulster Resistance and Ulster Defence Regiment plus people from outlawed groups such as the Ulster Volunteer Force, Protestant Action Force and Ulster Freedom Fighters. If an operation was being planned, members from the Inner Force would bring names of people to be eliminated, the source said.

Mr Collins said that if there was any truth in the allegations, then Source A, as a member of the co-ordinating committee, was involved in a conspiracy to murder and had information about others involved in conspiracy to murder if not actual murder. The hearing continues today.

RUC hopes to mend reputation

BY EDWARD GORMAN, IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE Royal Ulster Constabulary is pursuing the Channel 4 case not because it believes the *Dispatches* programme has wrongly injured its reputation, but because the programme contains specific and serious allegations of acts of terrorism.

While senior officers from the chief constable down have dismissed the general thrust of the Channel 4 investigation as "an unjust and unsubstantiated slur" on the force, they nevertheless feel bound to pursue allegations about acts of terrorism. In

this case, the source whom the police want to identify details of how individual members of the police and the Ulster Defence Regiment, as part of an alleged secret organisation set up to defend Ulster, allegedly collaborated with loyalist paramilitaries in the murder of republicans.

Police have confidentially dismissed claims of this kind ever since they started to appear in the autumn of 1989 as part of loyalist attempts to embarrass the RUC and the Stevens enquiry

into collusion. Sir Hugh Annesley, the chief constable, described the first such report in *The Irish News* as "arrant nonsense".

If Channel 4 and Box Productions are forced to disclose the source and it subsequently emerges that his allegations are without foundation, the RUC will have repaired its damaged reputation and demonstrated its commitment to combating terrorism. If they turn out to be true another embarrassing security scandal will be hard to avoid.

Hospital closure is recommended in leaked report

BY ALISON ROBERTS

ST THOMAS'S teaching hospital in London came a step nearer to closure yesterday as a leaked report recommended a critical review of the services that it provides.

The South East Thames Health Authority submission to the government enquiry into London's health care considers the split of services between St Thomas's and Guy's hospitals and recommends that one of the two should "cease activities". It is widely interpreted as signalling the closure of the politically more vulnerable St Thomas's.

Geoff Martin, director of the pressure group London Health Emergency, said that the report's message was unequivocal. "You can rule out Guy's. Basically they are saying St Thomas's will close. This is probably its death warrant."

A spokeswoman for the health authority said that this was only one interpretation of the report, which will be submitted next week to Sir Bernard Tomlinson, who is leading the enquiry. "It will be for Sir Bernard to make recommendations to the health secretary, Virginia Bottomley, and then for her to consider what he says."

A health department spokesman said that any claims that the hospital would close were "pointless speculation". He added: "What counts is what Sir Bernard's report says on London as a whole and what decisions ministers take."

John Pelly, the director of finance at St Thomas's, said that the report had angered staff at the hospital because its apparent conclusions were based on "a very flimsy" analysis. "There has been a very

high degree of guesswork and it seems to me strange that the RHA can so confidently conclude on the basis of that that one of the nation's most important teaching hospitals should close."

According to Mr Pelly, St Thomas's hospital, unlike Guy's, is not in financial trouble. It is thought, however, that Guy's flagship status as one of the first hospital trusts may improve its chances of remaining open.

A spokesman for Guy's said that any speculation about which of the hospitals might close was premature. The report's approach, as radical as that taken by the independent King's Fund Commission on London, which reported last month, was to be welcomed. "We believe that hospitals should play a less dominant role, and services need to be more effectively organised than at present."

The closure of one hospital from St Thomas's, King's College Hospital or Guy's had been widely expected as a result of the Tomlinson enquiry, but the leaked report makes predictions more concrete for the first time. The three hospitals, located near to each other south of the Thames, are under pressure from the introduction of market forces into London's health care services. It is becoming cheaper to treat Home Counties patients in district hospitals rather than in the capital.

Pete Marshall, London regional secretary of the health workers' union COHSE, said that no hospital in London could be described as unnecessary while people were on waiting lists for routine operations.

Minister renews attack on Eurocrats

BY MICHAEL DYNES
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

EUROPEAN Commission officials must resist the temptation to augment their executive powers without good reason, John MacGregor, transport secretary, told the Foreign Press Association in London yesterday.

Reiterating what is fast becoming one of the main themes of the British EC presidency, Mr MacGregor said: "We cannot have the Brussels machine seeking to define the Euro-sausage or to outlaw traditional forms of local cheeses. This sort of bureaucratic enthusiasm gone mad is what gives the European Community a bad name."

Britain's top priorities were to limit the European Commission's powers to intervene in domestic affairs, to roll back state subsidies to industry and to complete the internal market—especially for transport, he said.

Agreement on allocation of take-off and landing slots would complete the single market in aviation, while agreement on domestic road freight distribution, which is being blocked by Germany, would complete the single market in road haulage.

One of Britain's oldest pork butchers, which opened in 1756, stopped trading on Saturday because of the £70,000 cost of complying with new EC regulations. Miss June Vine, who runs Griffins Butchers in Basingstoke, Hampshire, accused the government of enforcing the rules more strictly than other EC countries.

Accident awards held up by dispute over who pays

Brain-damaged children are being denied payment by a wrangle in Whitehall, writes Frances Gibb

DAMAGES awards with a potential value of more than £100 million, made to ten children brain-damaged at birth, are being held up because of a wrangle between the Treasury, the health department and district health authorities over which should pay.

The dispute has arisen over structured settlements, the increasingly popular form of paying damages in instalments throughout the victim's life, by means of an annuity, rather than as a lump sum. The money at stake in the ten awards totals £10 million: the sum that health authorities would have to invest and which, depending on the children's life spans, could bring them in excess totalling well in excess of £100 million.

Although several such settlements have been successfully agreed with insurance companies in the past two years, awards made against health authorities are bogged down in discussions about how the annuity should be paid and by whom. A few structured settlements against health authorities were agreed earlier this year under the normal annuity method, by which the life insurer carries the risk of how long an accident victim might live. The Treasury is now unwilling for life annuities to be purchased to fund such awards.

Instead, officials say that better value for money is achieved if regions pay the damages instalments from their own budgets. Regions, for their part, are not happy about carrying the risk as to life expectancy on behalf of the Treasury, while the Treasury recoups the benefit of any savings.

Solicitors for the children want guarantees from central

government that it will continue any funding arrangements entered into by district health authorities if those authorities are abolished.

The £10 million worth of agreed cases awaiting payment are being handled by Frenkel Topping, of Manchester, a firm of accountants that pioneered structured settlements. Ivor Levy, a director, said: "One of these cases goes back to April 1991. The potential saving for the taxpayer in these cases amounts to £2 million to £2.5 million as against what it would cost under the traditional lump sum."

Mr Levy, who has been pressing the health department to clarify the position, said that "positive and prompt action" would need to be taken to "avoid the charge that the health service just cannot get its act together to save money. In view of the constant pressures that there are for cutting back on expenditure, when such opportunities present themselves, they clearly need to be grasped."

At the heart of the dispute was which part of the health service would benefit from the saving inherent in a structured settlement, Mr Levy said. The regions or districts would be responsible for paying the money, but would not, under present proposals, benefit from any savings.

Talks are now going on between the Treasury and health department in an effort to resolve the problems.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Mackay calls for cheaper legal help

Lord Mackay, the Lord Chancellor, called for alternatives to the traditional court process for settling disputes and lower-cost legal help at the Royal Society of Arts lecture on access to justice last night. He said under the present system "cost is a major barrier to using the law". Lord Mackay said: "We need perhaps to examine a variety of processes and solutions which would be available according to the situation."

Lessons might be learnt, he said, from the American "mass market" law firms, which provide a standardised service for the more straightforward cases at a price which lower and middle-income earners can afford. He suggested that methods of resolving disputes outside the courtroom might range from "miscellaneous therapeutic approaches, to informal dispute resolution or mediation, formal schemes for compensation, tribunals with lay membership and legal chairmen, and finally to judicial resolution."

Channel link project

British Rail yesterday announced the creation of Union Railways, a wholly owned subsidiary that will be responsible for building the Channel tunnel high-speed rail link, the first mainline railway to be built in Britain for almost a hundred years. The new subsidiary's chairman will be Dr John Prideaux, BR's director of new ventures, and the former managing director of InterCity. The company will take over all activities previously handled by British Rail's rail link project, which has been developing proposals since October for an easterly approach for the rail link between Folkestone and King's Cross station via Stratford in east London.

Royal Mail pays out

The Royal Mail is paying £5.8 million compensation annually to its customers for faulty postal deliveries, the Post Office Users' National Council said yesterday. The council said that the figure could be higher if more people knew how to claim compensation for mail that is lost, damaged, late or delivered to the wrong address. The Royal Mail said that compensation payments should be put in the context of a business that has an annual turnover of nearly £4,000 million a year and handles 61 million letters, packets and parcels daily. It plans to publicise compensation entitlements in a postal services guide delivered to every home.

Conviction quashed

A man convicted of armed robbery whose case was highlighted by campaigners last week as one of more than 100 instances of wrongful imprisonment needing legal redress was cleared by the Court of Appeal yesterday. Michael Royle, 29, of Manchester, was sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment by Manchester Crown Court on October 24 1990. The main evidence against him was given by an accomplice who had also been involved in the plot to "frame" God Corley, a Manchester politician. The appeal judges quashed his conviction and sentence, but he remains in prison to complete a separate five-year sentence for firearms offences. A co-accused, Robert Hall, 37, was also cleared and freed from his eight-year sentence.

Dame shows the way

Dame Jocelyn Barrow, deputy chairman of the Broadcasting Standards Council and the first black woman living and working in Britain to become a dame, will receive her insignia from the Queen at Buckingham Palace today. "I feel extremely proud to be the padfinders," Dame Jocelyn, 63, said. "I see it as an honour for women and also for minority groups." Dame Jocelyn, who was appointed an OBE in 1972, arrived in Britain from Trinidad in 1959. "When I first came, the discrimination was something one needed to cope with," she said. "I think a tremendous amount of good has taken place and quite a lot has been achieved in the last 30 years in terms of equality of opportunity, not just for ethnic groups but for women."

Coach 'ransom' denied

The head of the coach company whose drivers left a party of holidaymakers in Slovakia after Land Travel collapsed has defended their actions. The tourists said that the drivers had demanded £50 a head to take them home and, when they refused, the drivers abandoned the coach. John Griffiths, of Glouville Coaches, West Bromwich, said that he had agreed reluctantly to take the party despite Land Travel's repeated failure to pay him. After Land Travel's cheque for £5,650 bounced twice, he pulled his drivers out. "Rather than complaining, they should be thanking me for taking them out," he said. "If I had not taken them, they would not have had a holiday and would have lost their money."

Poll tax term upheld

A man jailed for 80 days for not paying his poll tax must serve the sentence, three Court of Appeal judges ruled yesterday. Ronald Newell, 66, of Northampton, has served 12 days of the sentence imposed by Northampton magistrates in February. Newell, who owed £569.25p including legal costs, says he cannot afford the £10 a week he was ordered to pay from his £68 a week pension. He paid £60 after being arrested last October and then stopped. A new hearing was set in February for him to explain himself but he did not turn up, and the magistrates ordered his arrest. He was jailed on March 8 but freed on bail 12 days later.

Donor card appeal

The family of a diabetic, who was given his son's kidney after he died in a road accident while on holiday, yesterday urged more people to carry donor cards. John Stephen, 54, above right, was recovering last night in Cardiff Royal Infirmary after a kidney transplant at the weekend. His son Richard, 28, above left, died in hospital in Crete after suffering severe chest and leg injuries when his rented motorcycle and a car collided. Richard's organs were brought back to Britain because he was carrying a donor card. His heart, liver and pancreas were also donated to help others.

Diver smuggled guns

Philip Hammond, a Gulf war diver who won the third Conspicuous Gallantry Medal issued since 1945, was jailed and dismissed from the Navy yesterday after he admitted smuggling high-powered Iraqi Kalashnikov rifles, a machinegun and 3,370 rounds of ammunition from the war zone. Chief Petty Officer Hammond, 38, packed the arms in a container and produced false papers for their flight home. They were discovered when they were landed at RAF Lyneham and an RAF technician said the cartridges, which were corroded, could have exploded on the aircraft. Hammond, who said he would appeal against the sentence, claimed that he wanted the guns to be used against Saddam's forces. He said he believed the ammunition had been in a safe condition.

Jani Allan libel case

Friend 'slept with trial witness to uncover evidence'

By BILL FROST

THE High Court jury in the Jani Allan libel action yesterday was told that one of the plaintiff's closest friends slept with a defence witness in an attempt to discover what she might say in evidence to the trial.

Andrew Broulidakis said that his motive had been to "establish the truth" about allegations that Miss Allan had been seen through a keyhole having sex with Eugene Terre Blanche, the South African neo-Nazi leader, while two bodyguards looked on.

When asked why he had taken it upon himself to investigate the case, he said: "I have witnessed Miss Allan being befriended by multitudes and then seen them turn on her viciously."

Mr Broulidakis told the court that Linda Shaw, who once shared a flat with Miss Allan, had told him during their sex session that she would "bullshit" her way through evidence to the libel trial. He claimed she also said: "Wouldn't it be a scream to have that frigid bitch nailed for gang-banging Nazis?"

Miss Allan, 41, of Hampton Court, Surrey, is suing Channel 4 over the film *The Leader, His Driver and the Driver's Wife*, which she says portrayed her as "a lady of easy virtue" who slept with

Mr Terre Blanche. Channel 4 says the programme makers never suggested an affair and argues that such an allegation, although never made, would be justified because Miss Allan did have an affair with Mr Terre Blanche.

Giving evidence for Miss Allan yesterday, Mr Broulidakis, a record producer, said he concealed a tape recorder in his pocket before taking Miss Shaw out to lunch while he was visiting South Africa last March. Over ten beers and a number of whiskeys he tried to lull any suspicions she might have felt by suggesting that he was extremely angry with Miss Allan.

Mr Broulidakis said Miss Shaw told him she would "never trust a man" until she had sex with him. "And with that in mind we returned to her apartment," he added.

After the couple made love Miss Shaw told him she had felt very drawn towards and obsessed by Miss Allan. When Miss Shaw referred to Miss Allan having "group sex with Nazis", he said anyone who knew her would not believe the allegation because of her "long-standing history of sexual modesty".

"I asked her what she saw and she said what she was going to say she saw was the story of looking through the

keyhole and seeing group-sex with Nazis.

"I asked her how she was going to make it stick and she replied that she had her story put and there were friends who would back her up. She was very casual and flippant and said she would bullshit her way through." Later that same week he had visited Miss Shaw at a health farm where they had sex again.

Mr Broulidakis said he was a practising member of the Greek Orthodox Church and had been in a dilemma over the embarrassment of giving such evidence. "The reason I did it is that ultimately I believe for an evil man to triumph it is necessary only for a good man to do nothing."

George Carman QC, opening the defence for Channel 4, said that Mr Broulidakis was a man who lied when it suited him, used sex when it suited him and then "rather nauseatingly" came before the court to give evidence from some sort of moral high ground.

The jury would have to sit in court for many years to hear a stranger story than Miss Allan's claim that sexually explicit notebook entries she had made were mere fantasy. The notebook in question appears to recount the South African journalist's affairs with a married Italian pilot and an Italian gun-runner called Mauro.

Mr Carman said Miss Allan had been captivated by Mr Terre Blanche and the image of people who lived close to nature — "men who wear the khaki, the men who talked of their land and their inheritance, not the city slickers".

He told the jury that Miss Allan had been conniving and calculating in the way she had pursued her allegations and told lies in the witness box. "What you are left with really at the end of this case will be a desperate woman, an untruthful woman and a rather sad woman," Mr Carman said.

The trial was adjourned until today.



Leading roles: Jani Allan claims she was libelled in a film about Eugene Terre Blanche, right



Debts close tourist board

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, TRAVEL CORRESPONDENT

THE Thames and Chiltern Tourist Board, responsible for attracting an annual five million domestic visitors and 1.5 million overseas visitors to some of Britain's most attractive countryside, yesterday ceased trading, with debts of more than £300,000.

The board, covering five counties, operated as a limited company largely financed by the government-backed English Tourist Board and had much of the Cotswolds, as well as Windsor and Oxford, in its area. The board is to call an extraordinary gen-

eral meeting within 28 days to appoint liquidators and to go into voluntary liquidation.

Outside experts were called into its headquarters, at Whitney, Oxfordshire, last month and they declared the organisation insolvent. Afterwards, John Bethell, the chief executive, resigned and the chief accountant, Ian Broadbridge, was suspended, with no suggestion of impropriety.

The English Tourist Board (ETB) supplied temporary managers and tried to reorganise finances, provided by councils and commercial con-

cerns. The board has about 800 members drawn from tourism operators, including hotel and coach companies.

The ETB, which provided £350,000 a year in grants to enable the board to promote its area, said yesterday that neighbouring boards would, for the time being, take over its role. A meeting would be held to decide whether the board should be merged with at least two of the other 11 regional boards in England, or be reconstituted. "It is up to them to decide what to do in the future," the ETB said.

University murder case opens

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

A MATURE student was remanded in custody for a week yesterday, charged with murdering Elizabeth Howe at the University of York, where she had gone to lecture at a week-long Open University summer school.

Robin Andrew Pask, 31, of Horwich, Great Manchester, spoke only once during the hearing before York magistrates, to say that he understood the charge. Reporting restrictions were not lifted at the four-minute hearing and there was no application for bail.

The body of Dr Howe, 34, the mother of two children, was found on Saturday night in her room at the university, where the defendant had registered as a student on the course the same afternoon.

Dr Howe, a graduate of St Anne's College, Oxford, and a specialist in Restoration literature, had taught last year at the Open University summer school, which regarded her highly as a tutor in English literature. She had recently received her PhD from London University. Her research work led to the publication of a book, *The First English Actresses*, by Cambridge University Press.

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Travellers defy court order to leave Welsh festival site

By PETER VICTOR

THOUSANDS of travellers camped on a farm in Wales yesterday defied a court order to leave their illegal festival. A 10am deadline given by police passed with only some of the travellers leaving the site at a six-acre field near Kerry, in Powys.

Stones were thrown at police on Sunday night and early yesterday morning. The total of arrests over the weekend stood at 80, mainly for alleged drugs and traffic offences.

The travellers' refusal to leave enabled Dyfed-Powys police to remove them by force under the Public Order Act. Officers are expected to allow the remaining crowd of up to 4,000 more time to remove their old buses, lorries and cars. The vehicles leaving the site yesterday morning were monitored by police.

Stanley Pugh, the farmer whose land has been the venue for the travellers' festival for several days, indicated yesterday that he might take out a civil court injunction to reinforce the police order.

Alex Carlile, the local Liberal Democrat MP, visited the site yesterday and urged the government to introduce a law of criminal trespass to protect private land from hippy invasions. "It would be a law designed to help police deal with this problem," he said. "These travellers have parked on the land of an elderly, innocent man, who has had his land invaded without his permission. Some of his livestock have been killed and his fences pulled up." Mr Carlile, MP for Montgomery, said that residents were generally satisfied with police action to keep the disruption to a minimum, but the operation had been huge and costly.

Some travellers said that they had raised money to help to compensate Mr Pugh for his losses. They also said that they wanted time to tidy up the fields before leaving. One declared, however: "We will dress how we like, smell how we like, live how we like and leave when we like."

Dai Davies, of Dyfed-Powys police, said that the illegal

camp showed the need for the government to urgently review the law to provide greater powers for police to act. He said that the force had carried out a successful operation to contain the festival with minimum disruption to local communities by confiscating large sound systems. Only low-volume music has been played at the festival.

Police and farming organisations intend to pre-empt any moves by the travellers to set up new festival sites in Wales. A watch is being kept on the Treacastle and Llangadog areas in south Powys and Dyfed.

Gwilym Thomas, of the Farmers' Union of Wales, said that the travellers' festival was "like a plague of locusts has descended on mid Wales".

Mr Pugh, 60, said that about 20 of his sheep had been killed by packs of travellers' dogs roaming the site. Fences had also been ripped up for firewood. He said that the damage caused was likely to run into thousands of pounds.

Buyers rush in for half-price houses

By RACHEL KELLY, PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

MORE than 700 buyers are competing for 70 former RAF houses in Lincolnshire that are on sale at about half their market price.

The detached and semi-detached post-war houses, some with new roofs and PVC double-glazing, are being offered at prices ranging from £18,500 for one with three bedrooms to £35,000 for one with four bedrooms. The average price for a terraced house in the area is £32,000, and a four-bedroom detached house would sell for about £70,000.

The homes are two miles outside the village of North Coates, between Cleethorpe and Mablethorpe, in a former RAF camp. They are surrounded by fields, but the developer, Hodge Group, which is selling the houses, plans to develop a mini-vil-

lage around the site with shops and other amenities.

The developer bought the site from the Ministry of Defence for an estimated £1.5 million in January. The camp was closed in March last year. Other government departments expressed no interest in the houses. Although East Lindsey District Council has about 70 families in temporary housing, the homes were felt to be too isolated.

The estate agent, Bacons, based at Grimsby, is welcoming prospective buyers for their first viewing this weekend. Tracy Harris, of Bacons, said: "We expect all 70 houses to be sold this weekend because people are coming from all over the country and abroad to view them."

The houses will be sold to whoever makes the first offer. There will be a £300 deposit

payable, which will be refunded if a buyer backs out. New owners will have to wait until September before moving in, giving the developer time to take down security fences, landscape the site and repair street lights and plumbing.

Many of those interested in the houses are former RAF personnel, who are being treated like any other buyer. The Royal Air Forces Association, which represents ex-servicemen, feels that the homes should be offered to ex-servicemen first. Roy Amour, chairman of the association in Hull, said: "Bases are being closed down all the time, and the ex-servicemen and their families have nowhere to go. They should be given the first chance to buy these houses."

The government has shelved proposals for a new

"housing action" for simple housing disputes after widespread criticism from housing and legal groups (Francis Gibb writes).

However, the Lord Chancellor's department yesterday announced a series of other reforms for handling housing repossession cases, including a new fast-track procedure for landlords seeking to repossess their properties.

The department said that Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, was deferring a reform that would have brought many kinds of housing case within the county court arbitration procedure. Housing lawyers had said the proposed housing action was inappropriate for county court arbitration unless technical experts, paid for by public funds, could be used.



Cavalry charge: Corporal of Horse Geoff Wright, left, and his colleague Mark Kelsey, of the Household Cavalry, put in some last-minute training in Hyde Park, London, for the Siberian marathon on Saturday. They leave London tomorrow in a party of 30 runners, musicians and supporters. On Sunday the two men will ride in full uniform during a festival in the Siberian town of Omsk

VAT man loses case on payment

An electrical contractor whose cash flow was affected by late payments from his main customer — a local authority — yesterday won the latest round in his legal battle with the VAT man.

Three Court of Appeal judges ruled by a 2-1 majority that the Customs and Excise were wrong to impose a surcharge of more than £1,000 on John Steptoe, of Barkingside, Essex, for delay in making VAT payments. The decision upheld earlier rulings by a VAT tribunal and the High Court that Mr Steptoe had a reasonable excuse for failing to pay his tax on time because the London Borough of Redbridge, for whom he did 95 per cent of his work during the relevant accounting periods in 1987 and 1988, was late in meeting his bills.

Lord Justice Nolan said the Customs argued that if their appeal failed all reasons for insufficient funds were capable of being advanced as "reasonable excuses" for late payment. But this concern was exaggerated, Mr Steptoe, who had represented himself, was awarded costs. The Customs were refused leave to appeal to the House of Lords, but can still apply direct to the law lords for leave.

Rapist jailed for attack on leave

A man who attacked a woman while on home-leave from prison where he was serving life for rape was jailed for six years yesterday. Trevor Hanson, 48, choked and indecently assaulted the woman in a darkened carpark after missing a bus back to Leyhill open prison, Bristol Crown Court was told.

Dawn Primarolo, Labour MP for Bristol South, said that she would be asking the Home Secretary to look into home visits as a matter of urgency. "Hanson has been dealt with but the question remains of how offenders are assessed for home visits," she said. "It is clear that Hanson was a habitual offender and it is crucial that offenders of this type are put in a separate category."

Rise in number of Aids cases

The number of new Aids cases reported in the second quarter of this year has risen by 363, the health department said yesterday. That brings the cumulative total of reported Aids cases to 6,140 of whom 3,839, or 63 per cent, are known to have died. The cumulative total of reports of newly diagnosed cases of HIV is now 17,868.

PC remanded

PC Bill Carmore, 47, village policeman in Abridge, Essex, was remanded in custody for 28 days under the Mental Health Act by Chelmsford magistrates yesterday charged with indecently assaulting a woman from Braintree, Essex, between May 6, 1982 and August 4, 1984.

Long goodbye

A judge at Stafford Crown Court granted an order yesterday to a woman declaring that her husband was legally dead. Jean Kelly, 64, from Codsall, who wanted to claim her widow's pension, last saw her husband Eugene when she waved him off to work in September 1961.

Return journey

A 24 year old Algerian stow-away plucked from the sea ten miles off the Kent coast on Sunday after claiming that he had been thrown overboard was deported to Algeria yesterday.

Runaway gun

Two people are serious but stable after being cut from their car after it was hit by a two tonne artillery gun which broke loose from its truck and careered across the road on its way back to barracks in Limerick City in the Irish republic.

High mileage

A group of pupils aged 13 to 16 from Belfairs High School at Leigh-on-Sea, Essex, have won first prize in the Shell junior mileage marathon after building a car that does 1,516 miles to the gallon. The one-man fibreglass car uses an engine from a Honda 50 moped.

Early warning

Mary Downs, 72, of Driffield, Humberside, has sent 60 invitations to friends asking them to join her on Saturday for a celebration of her wake. She said she wanted to be alive to enjoy it.

Radical solutions needed, teachers' head says

Benefits cut proposed for parents of unruly pupils

By JOHN O'LEARY EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

MINISTERS should consider penalising the parents of disruptive children by cutting their social security benefits, the chairman of Britain's most conservative teaching union said yesterday.

Nicholas Griffin, the new leader of the Professional Association of Teachers, demanded radical new thinking to improve classroom behaviour. "Hitting parents in the pocket could be a way of forcing parents to take control and responsibility for their children."

Interviewed after his opening address to the union's annual conference at Loughborough University, Mr Griffin said: "In most circumstances, one would approach parents at an early stage if there was regular disruption, but there will always be some who will not co-operate with schools. I am not advocating financial penalties at this stage, but all options should be considered."

In his address Mr Griffin said: "Parents must now be held responsible for the discipline of their offspring. It is time that society realised that it is the role of the teacher to teach. It is not the role of the teacher to be a surrogate parent or a social worker or, heaven help us, a policeman."

A survey published last month revealed a sharp rise in pupil expulsions and brought a warning from headteachers that Britain risked delinquency on the scale seen in the United States, with a 30 per cent school drop-out rate.

John Patten, the education secretary, has argued that parents should be called to account for the actions of truants, but his education white paper, to be published today, is expected to concern-

trate on action by schools. Mr Griffin, a former headteacher in Barnet, north London, and now an education consultant, highlighted the erosion over the past decade of sanctions available to maintain discipline, including the abolition of corporal punishment.

"Little positive help has been given to an increasingly embattled teaching profession," he said. "Some way must be found of making parents of the truculent few responsible for the behaviour

of their children, in the interests of the vast majority of well-behaved children who are eager to learn. If all the children in a class are to learn purposefully, then all the children in that class have to behave themselves."

Mr Griffin's suggestions formed part of a wider proposal for a children's charter to follow the white paper. That would establish a pupil's right to be properly taught in suitable premises, without fear of bullying. The govern-

ment had produced a parent's charter on the basis that they were the consumers of education, Mr Griffin said. "Isn't it children who are the true consumers of education? Some of them will be living with the consequences of our mistakes for the rest of their lives."

A charter would give children the right to expect their work to be marked and their lessons properly prepared. Parents would be asked to enter into a formal contract with their child's school to try to improve his or her behaviour. The government would provide the money to improve school buildings and reduce class sizes.

Donald Dewar, Labour social security spokesman, said the withdrawal of benefits was no answer. "Discipline problems are by no means restricted to children in families dependent on benefits. Children from every sort of background are involved. Making life even more difficult for those already struggling to get by on subsistence benefits is hardly likely to make a contribution to the quality of family life."

Victims of playground bullies say the culprits should be made to walk around school barefoot as punishment, and teachers should "carry machineguns at school".

The extreme suggestions were in a survey in Birmingham schools where up to half of pupils have been the victims of physical and verbal abuse. The pupils, aged between eight and 16, were questioned by education department psychologists who plan a response to the problem which, they say, is nearing epidemic proportions.



Nicholas Griffin: demanding radical new thinking

Council officer to run church school facing Asian accusations of racism

By MATTHEW D'ANCONA, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

A COUNCIL official is to take charge of a Church of England secondary modern school whose staff have been accused of racism by a group of Asian parents and governors.

Ray Hadfield, a former head teacher who now works for Berkshire County Council's education department, has been made acting head of Slough and Eton Church of England School, in Slough, where 98 per cent of the 400 pupils are Asian, but most teachers and governors are white. The governors could not agree on a replacement for the retiring head, and four Sikh parent governors allege that a Muslim candidate was undermined by a whispering campaign.

Mr Hadfield's appointment follows the launch of a campaign calling for greater representation of Asian interests on the staff and governing body. A 1,000-name petition signed by parents and members of local community organisations has been sent to the council, alleging that

the voluntary-controlled school is "governed by institutional racism" and "run on a euro-centric basis without being sensitive to our cultures, religions, language, anxieties and needs".

Since the dispute began, one teacher has received death threats; another's house has been damaged by fire in suspicious circumstances.

A member of the governing body is reported in the local press to have said that the school was out of control. "There is so much going on at this school that people don't know about," the governor was quoted as saying. "All this talk about the school being racist is rubbish. We have tried to get Muslims on the board of governors and they just don't want to know. It's the Sikhs who are kicking up the fuss unnecessarily."

Stanley Goodchild, Berkshire's chief education officer, said yesterday that the school was one of two in Slough to be over-subscribed. "I was very surprised to receive a petition

with so many names on it, bearing in mind what we know about the school and its popularity," he said. "However, we are taking it very seriously and will be investigating its allegations."

Earlier complaints had prompted him to hold an enquiry in February into the running of the school, which had found problems of "communication" between parents, governors and staff.

Chaudry Ifakhar Ahmed, president of the Pakistan Welfare Association in Slough, said that many of the governors had held office for 15 or 20 years and were ignorant of Asian culture. "They have their own little monopoly," he said. "They are old-fashioned in their thinking."

The Muslim candidate for the headship, who wished to remain anonymous, was taking his case to an industrial tribunal, Mr Ahmed said.

The proportion of Asian pupils at Slough and Eton has increased gradually over the past 20 years to the point

that the school's traditional Christian curriculum is now being provided for a roll that is mostly Muslim or Sikh.

The Rev Jeremy Hurst, a member of the Oxford diocesan board of education, which appoints four governors to the school, said yesterday that this paradox was not unique. "Slough and Eton is not the only C of E-controlled school where there is a majority of non-white pupils. It's a question of scale," he said.

The dispute raised the question of where power in schools should lie, Mr Hurst said. "The real conflict is over who controls the school," he said. "The Sikh governors see the problem as being that, while the majority of pupils are Asian, the staff and governors are predominantly white. But the question is, whose school is it?"

To encourage an end to the conflict, Mr Hurst said, the board had emphasised that appointees to the four church-controlled governorships need only be "sympathetic" to the school's Christian ethos.

Cash lure keeps Americans in classes

WHILE ministers prepared to wield the stick against Britain's worst inner-city schools, business leaders from the United States were in London to show what could be done with the carrot (John O'Leary writes).

Today's education white paper will outline measures to take over the running of schools regarded by the government as failing. The prime minister has said that poor examination results and low staying-on rates at 16 can no longer be tolerated.

In Cleveland, Ohio, which was effectively bankrupt in 1978 and facing urban problems beyond the imagination of most British cities, the private sector has taken a lead in raising educational standards. A controversial incentive scheme puts \$40 into a scholarship fund for every awarded an A in a quarterly assessment. Lower grades attract smaller sums.

The money, accumulated over five years of secondary education, can be drawn only on graduation. In four years since the scheme was launched, the number of school leavers going on to college has increased by 17 per cent and the proportion taking higher education entrance tests is up by a third.

Although the scheme has been criticised as unethical, it has been taken up by 25 American universities which have agreed to match the entitlements. Cleveland students have earned almost \$17 million, although most beneficiaries are still in school so only \$735,000 has yet been claimed.

John Lewis, a lawyer who masterminded the programme and a \$5 million scheme to help those who do not go on to higher education to find work, said: "Not everybody approves but there is no doubt that grades have improved and interest in education has revived. When the mayor held an education summit, 700 parents came to participate."

Education is one of the themes of a partnership between the public and private sectors in Cleveland. James Biggar, a retired Nestlé executive leading a team of businessmen on a tour of England, Germany and Austria to promote Cleveland as a business and tourist centre, said: "We believe we have to have a strong city, and that does not just mean a few of us going to a country club. It is good for business."



Lewis: reviving public interest in education

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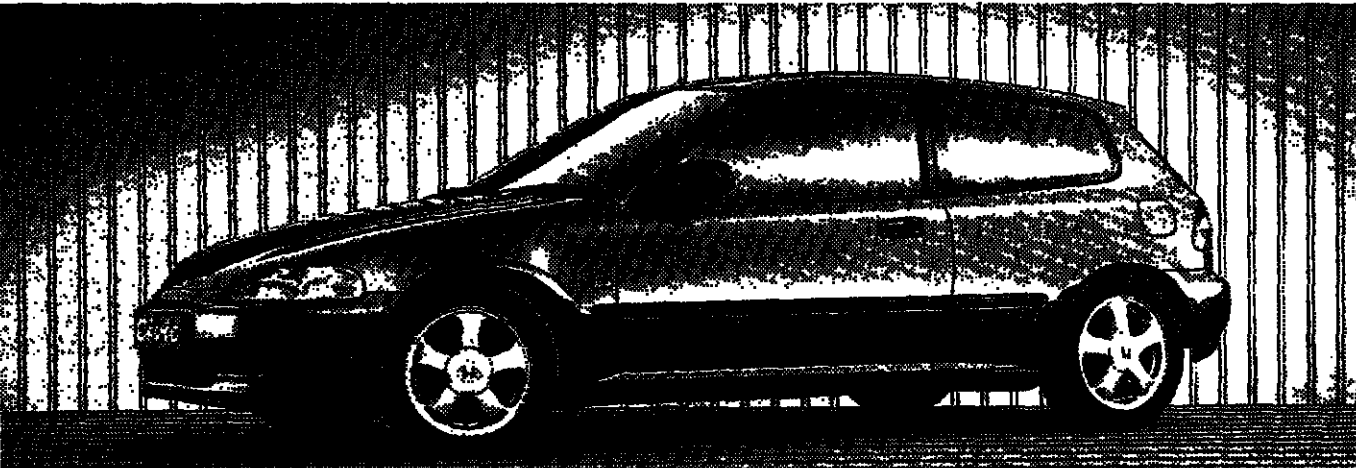
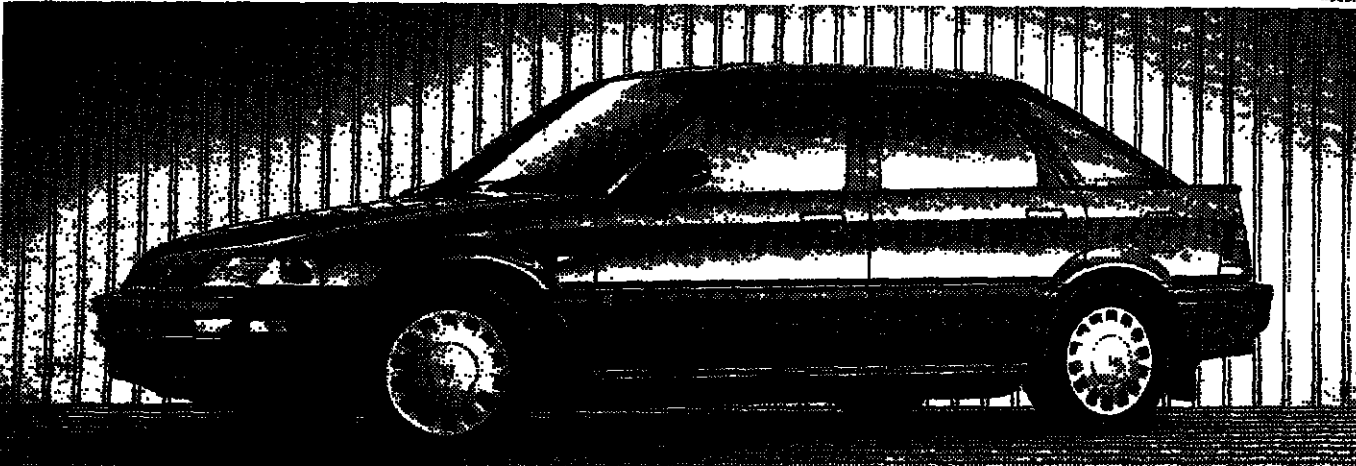
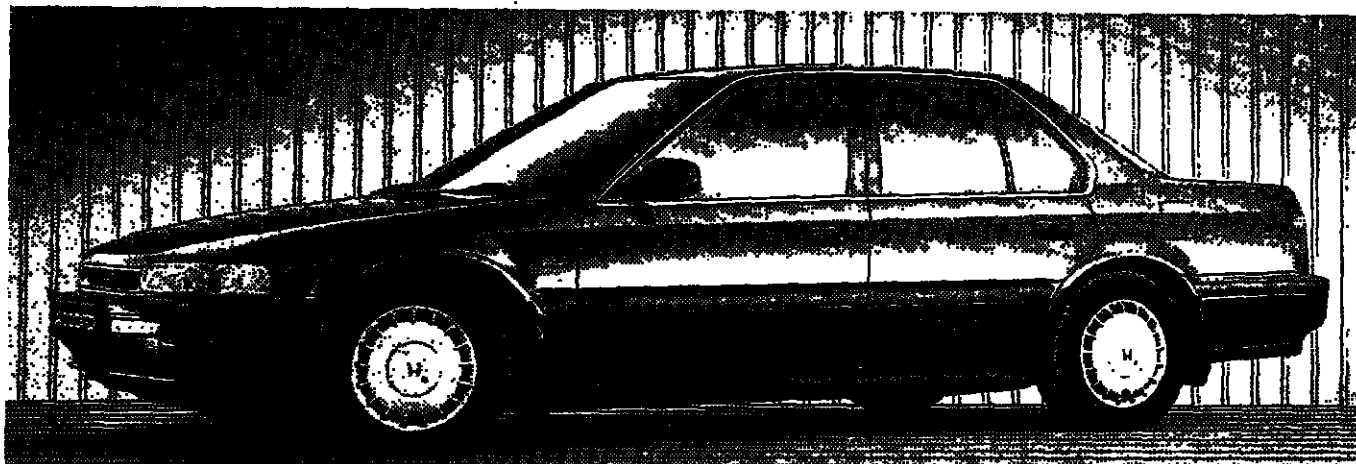
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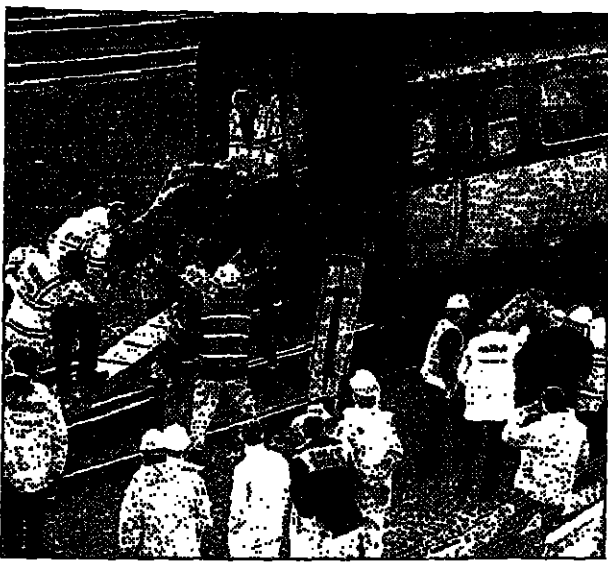
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Crash enquiry taken on simulated trip into Severn tunnel

Signalling failure blamed for train collision



First aid: some of the 150 injured passengers are carried to safety after last December's crash

By JOHN YOUNG

A FAILURE of signalling equipment meant that visual control panels did not show the position of two trains which crashed in the Severn tunnel last December, an enquiry was told yesterday.

On December 5, two days before the crash, electronic remote control equipment failed in the area of Newport, Gwent, on the western side of the tunnel. A back-up system came into operation, which allowed trains to run normally but which did not indicate their position on the control panels.

More than 150 people were injured in the crash, in which a two-coach "sprinter" train from Portsmouth to Cardiff ran into the back of a 125 InterCity express from Pad-

dington. Eighty-seven of the injured needed hospital treatment after a lengthy rescue operation.

Andrew Hancock, operations manager for InterCity Great Western, told the enquiry, which opened in Bristol yesterday, that, when the accident happened, the signalman controlling the eastern entrance to the tunnel "was not aware of the locations of the trains while signalling was working automatically on a through route system".

British Rail has admitted responsibility for the accident, but the exact cause is not yet known. The driver of the sprinter train has insisted that the signal changed to green as he approached the tunnel entrance.

Lawyers for the victims,

who are claiming damages against British Rail, heard Robin Seymour, chief inspecting officer of railways, say that it was not the enquiry's task to determine legal responsibility. It was hoped to establish the cause and circumstances of the accident, and to make recommendations which might prevent a recurrence. The enquiry would also investigate the safety procedures and the response of the emergency services.

Mr Hancock said there were no signals inside the tunnel. It was normally the signal at the end of the tunnel which would permit access when the tunnel was clear.

The signal was on display at the enquiry, alongside a simulated track circuit block, the system which was under

repair at the time of the accident. Members of the enquiry panel were taken on a simulated trip in the driver's cab heading into the tunnel after clearing the green signal. For four minutes the "train" was travelling in near darkness at speeds of up to 75mph before the point of impact.

Mr Hancock said the track circuit block system was installed in the 1960s, but the temperature and humidity of the tunnel had led to a number of failures and services had been delayed by up to ten hours. To overcome those difficulties, a supplementary system had been installed at the tunnel entrances to assist signalling.

Questioned by Allan Gore, representing the train drivers and their union, Mr Hancock said that, in addition to the

failure of the electronic remote control system, the trackside equipment had also malfunctioned.

The equipment counted the train's axles going in and out of the tunnel and, if the counts matched, connected signals would give an all-clear sign, a green light. But the day before the accident the exit mechanism was not operating.

Mr Hancock said he had chaired BR's internal investigation into the accident, and that his reports had been passed on to Mr Seymour. He had specifically sought information about the number of instances in which drivers had passed a signal at "danger" in the past three years, and had found none.

The enquiry was adjourned until today.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Seven held as £8m cocaine is seized

Customs officers believe they have broken a Bristol-based drugs ring after the arrest of seven men and the seizure of 130lb of cocaine worth £8 million at Stansfeld airport.

The drugs, found in luggage, were the biggest haul found at the Essex airport. The seizure was the culmination of an investigation code-named Barracuda into drug smuggling from Argentina.

Three of the men were arrested at the airport and the other four were held when customs officers and police raided a house in Easton, Bristol. All seven are expected to appear before magistrates in Bristol.

Cemetery rape is alleged

A 19-year-old French au pair told an Old Bailey jury that she was stripped naked by an attacker wearing dreadlocks and raped on a gravestone in Highgate Cemetery, north London, when she made a trip to see the tomb of Karl Marx.

Glory Kwanteng, 31, a kitchen porter of Kenilworth Town, northwest London, denies rape and robbery. He is alleged to have bitten his victim and banged her head against a gravestone until she almost lost consciousness. The trial continues.

Police hurt in mob attack

Six policemen were injured and a patrol car was badly damaged when a mob pelled policemen with missiles outside Runcom police station in Cheshire. Windows and computer equipment were damaged.

Yesterday three men and a woman were charged with public order offences and a man was charged with criminal damage.

Chef given life for murder

A Chinese chef, Shun Liu, 25, of Portsmouth, Hampshire, who murdered the wife of his business partner, was jailed for life at Winchester Crown Court.

He was convicted last week of killing Helen Chan at the Bamboo Garden takeaway restaurant in Cowes, Isle of Wight. He attacked her and her husband Tommy, 43, with knives during an argument about a failed business venture.

Nurse signed sex contract

A nurse was pestered for sex and tricked her into signing a contract promising to sleep with her charge nurse, the General Nursing Council's professional conduct committee was told yesterday.

Carolyn Gray, 28, said Baboo Hurnage, 38, of Hayward's Heath, Sussex, constantly propositioned her. He was found guilty of four charges of misconduct but was not ordered to be struck off the nursing register.

Tour guide held

A tour guide based on Majorca, Christopher Brian Deary, 24, from Manchester, was remanded in custody on the island yesterday accused of raping and attempting to murder a 17-year-old tourist from Hull. The alleged victim, on a Sunset Holidays trip to Magaluf, was battered with a rock and left for dead.

Teenager dies

Daniel Mitchell, 17, of Old Coulsdon, south London, died and three others were injured when the stolen car in which he was a passenger crashed into a house in Croydon while being chased by police. There was no one in the house.

Tortoise trek

Twenty-six smuggled tortoises found by customs officers on Polish-crewed ships at Tilbury and Southampton were flown to Morocco yesterday to be freed in a national park. Sailors had hoped to sell them for £200 each.

Huntsman dies

The joint master of the New Forest Foxhounds, Peter Bailey, 47, of Bramshaw, Hampshire, has been found shot dead beside his car in the New Forest. He left a note and had been worried about financial problems.

Famous face

A competition for a vegetable with a famous face at a flower show in North Peabert, Somerset was won by a potato with glasses labelled David Mellor.

Freed hostage protests at ITV film of Beirut ordeal

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE FLIGHT of Western hostages kidnapped and held captive by Islamic fundamentalists in Beirut is to be dramatised on ITV this autumn in spite of impassioned pleas by John McCarthy, one of the released hostages, for the programme to be cancelled.

None of the British hostages has co-operated in the making of the Granada drama-documentary, which purports to be a true-to-life account of "how the hostages themselves found the means and endurance to survive appalling deprivation and hardship".

Mr McCarthy says he will not watch the two-hour *Hostages* when it is broadcast this September. He said that he did not want to be seen as "a character dreamt up by a scriptwriter".

He added: "I don't understand how Granada can present a realistic account of what I went through when I haven't told Granada or indeed anyone else what it was like. I do hope the viewers aren't given the impression that they are watching a true account of my experience. I have made my opposition clear to Granada and I am saddened that they are still going ahead."

Granada said the drama-documentary, which stars Colin Firth as Mr McCarthy and Natasha Richardson as his girlfriend Jill Morrell, was a true-life adventure which the public had a right to know about.

Steve Morrison, Granada's director of programmes, said: "If people are incarcerated for five years in a dark dungeon, for some of that period in a cupboard these are experiences which should be recounted. When the hostages see this film they'll agree that the story should be told. They'll like the film."

He denied that it would be traumatic for hostages to have their ordeal laid out on television as entertainment. "It is not our object to sensationalise these stories. It is our object to tell what really happened. We think the public needs to know. The hostages are all very strong, courageous men and they

have been through all sorts of counselling and have all talked at length about it when they came out," Mr Morrison said.

Granada said *Hostages*, which also highlights the struggles of relatives and friends against official indifference to the hostages' plight, had benefited from the co-operation of Brian Keenan's sisters and Terry Anderson's sister Peggy Say, who is played by Kathy Bates. Miss Morrell helped Granada before Mr McCarthy, who is writing his own version of his five-year captivity, was released.

The drama-documentary is part of ITV's £165 million autumn line-up of crime dramas and blockbuster Hollywood films aimed at maintaining the network's 10 per cent ratings lead over BBC1.

Helen Mirren is back in *Prime Suspect II*, a sequel to the award-winning drama about a senior woman police officer suffering prejudice at every turn in her battle to catch a serial killer. Lynda La Plante, *Prime Suspect*'s author, has also created *Franny*, a tense psychological thriller about a young detective played by Timothy Dalton on holiday in Spain.

David Jason, back as Pop Larkin in *The Darling Buds of May*, also makes his debut as a detective dealing with back-street crime in the Yorkshire drama series *A Touch of Frost*. Zoe Wanamaker, Judy Parfitt and James Faulkner feature in *The Blackheath Poisonings*, a three-part story of lust, corruption and murder which threatens the lives of two wealthy Victorian families.

Hollywood films include *Who Framed Roger Rabbit?*, *Die Hard* and *Working Girl*. There is also a season of Arnold Schwarzenegger films including *Conan The Barbarian*, *Commando* and *Predator*.

The LWT feature film *Under Suspicion* comes to television after its cinema release, starring Liam Neeson as a seedy private eye in Brighton arranging divorce cases by setting up proof of adultery.

Farmers take on BR over rabbits

By CRAIG SETON

RABBITS are so thick on the ground at Peter Till's Staffordshire farm that on one occasion he killed three with a single shotgun cartridge. Gassing the animals, which he estimates have caused £18,000 in damage to his cereal crops, has not worked. They burrow under or jump over wiring British Rail erected to try to stop them from encroaching from their warrens in a neighbouring railway embankment.

Mr Till is one of hundreds of farmers whose land is infested by rabbits from railway embankments. The farmers are keenly awaiting a High Court test case due in the autumn that is expected to establish whether British Rail is liable to pay damages for crop destruction.

The farmers' plight, at its worst in the summer, has highlighted growing concern among landowners over the rabbit population, which has rapidly increased to an estimated 30 million in England. Crop and other damage is estimated at £100 million a year, raising fears that the animal is becoming as much a pest as it was before the viral disease myxomatosis cut its number from 100 million to one million in the late 1950s.

The action involves an unnamed farmer from Hereford and Worcester who will allege that British Rail has failed to control rabbits under the Pests Act, 1954 and should pay him compensation for crop damage. He is being backed by the Country Landowners' Association and the National Farmers' Union. British Rail is due to deny liability.

Mr Till, from Kingstone, near Uttoxeter, and other farmers hope the case will force British Rail to take more drastic action to control rabbits on its land or face heavy compensation claims. He said that British Rail had refused his claim over crop damage on 50 acres of land he rents from Lord Harrowby's Sandon estate near Stone, Staffordshire, on the ground that it had taken all reasonable steps.

Last September he planted milking wheat in fields adjoining the Stoke-on-Trent to Rugby railway line, but it suffered severe dam-



Losing battle: Peter Till says rabbits burrow under or hop over wiring BR has erected alongside his land

age from grazing rabbits, he said. Earlier this year he reseeded with spring barley, but much of that crop was eaten. It was illegal for him to go onto British Rail land to try and deal with the infestation himself.

Mr Till said: "There are rabbits all over the bloody place. They are like a plague. We try to shoot as many as we can, but there are too many. I want reimbursement and I will not stop until I get damages and costs. I cannot understand why the agriculture ministry does not do something more positive about them."

Ron Handley, who farms 170 acres outside Chester

in Cheshire, said he had made repeated attempts to get British Rail to control rabbits in the embankment of the Chester to Crewe line, which adjoins his land. He estimated he had lost about three acres of potential hay crop and said: "Our neighbour has been forced to give up vegetable production and put his holding down to horse rearing. It is about the only thing the rabbits will not eat."

Bob and Brian Crawford, brothers who farm alongside the Nottingham to Grantham railway track at Aslockton, Nottinghamshire, estimate that rabbits have caused £30,000 worth of crop damage in eight

years. British Rail said it knew its responsibilities under the Pests Act and did its best to control the rabbits, but they were wild animals and it did not accept liability for any damage they caused. Effective action meant working in collaboration with other landowners to ensure that warrens in embankments were not recolonised.

A spokeswoman said 23,000 miles of fencing would be needed to wire off the national rail track. "There is a rabbit infestation, but not just on British Rail land."



Peter Rabbit: no cuddly character for farmers

Leading article, page 11

£5m grants fail to redeem unpopular estate

By DOUGLAS BROOM, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

AN INNER city council estate that has had almost £5 million of public money spent on it in the past six years is to be demolished because no one wants to live there. The ruling Labour group on Gateshead council, Tyneside, has decided that the 450-home St Cuthbert's Village estate overlooking the Garden Festival site will be pulled down over the next two years.

Almost £3 million of government funds have gone into attempts to refurbish the estate since 1986, and £2 million from the council. Paul Tinnion, chairman of the housing committee, blamed the rigidity of the government's Estate Action scheme for preventing the council from acting earlier to replace the system-built estate with traditional houses.

The council says that it wanted to demolish the estate and replace it with houses

and maisonettes, but the environment department was prepared to pay only for repairs. Although the department's rules have now been changed, Mr Tinnion said that it was too late to save the estate, opened in March 1970 by Harold Wilson, then prime minister.

At the time, the concrete estate with its access bridges and long covered corridors was praised as the acme of modern design. Those same features quickly led to it becoming a haven for criminals. "There were problems right from the start," Mr Tinnion said. "It was never a popular estate and it has now become something of a transit camp with a very high turnover of tenants. From the beginning we wanted to pull it down and start again but we could not afford to do that without government help. The catch was that the only help on offer was for refurbishment. We were

told we could not demolish the estate."

The last hope of gaining government money for rebuilding faded last week when Gateshead's bid for a share of the £750 million City Challenge programme, which included a plan for St Cuthbert's, failed.

"There is no doubt that pulling it down is a terrible waste of public resources and it calls into question the whole way in which the government has allocated money for inner city housing estates," Mr Tinnion said. "No one wants to live there and the only way we could make it attractive to tenants is to rebuild it, and we cannot afford to do that." The site will be offered to housing associations and private developers.

One of those who will lose their homes is Bill Timmins, who moved in 22 years ago when the estate was completed. With a neighbour he has

transformed the flat roof of his three-storey block into a prize-winning garden.

"The view from here is wonderful," he said, looking out of his living room window. "From here I can see right up the Tyne across to the hills and over the Garden Festival. But the buildings are another matter: drab grey concrete. What I would like is a proper house with a front and back garden where this maisonette is now."

Cilla Isles, secretary of the tenants' association, says that most residents recognise that the estate will have to go. Those with young children want to move to conventional houses.

"The corridors which run through the blocks are ideal for burglars," she said. "The echoes are such that you cannot tell if someone is knocking on your door or kicking your neighbour's in. At the same time, thieves can run

away down the corridor as you come home."

Although the estate has seen joyriding, drug dealing and glue sniffing, its worst difficulties are now burglary and vandalism. Earlier this year a group of mothers formed an informal vigilante group defending their homes with baseball bats.

Tension has eased since then and the greatest source of unease is uncertainty about when the bulldozers will move in. No formal council decision has yet been taken.

The environment department said that, partly because of cases like St Cuthbert's, it had changed its policy on estate action schemes and was now prepared to help with demolition and rebuilding. "Unfortunately for this estate, it was one of the first to apply and the rules precluded wholesale demolition," it said. "They have now been changed."

Professionals seek spiritual rewards

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

INCREASING numbers of well-off professionals are abandoning secularism for a life of poverty as Salvation Army officers. More than 80 have started training this year. In ten years, the number aged over 40 who have begun training for officer status has increased from four to a record 30.

The increase is matched by a decline in numbers of young people becoming Salvation Army officers. Major Beryl Beamish, of the William Booth memorial training college in southeast London, said: "There has been no extra push with publicity. Older people seem to want to turn to this service; they see it as a spiritual vocation."

She said some couples had been held back, unable to sell their houses because of the

recession. Many relinquish lucrative careers to earn £3,343 as newly commissioned officers. Although they are given a car and housing, their lifestyles remain frugal. For under-40s, the training takes eight years, the last five years in the field. Older entrants are trained in the field.

Recently commissioned officers include Lieutenant Stephen Calder, 27, who with his wife Sandra gave up a joint salary of more than £23,000. They took over as ministers at the Southwark chapel. He said: "I wanted my life to mean something in real terms."

Eric and Carol Pearce, aged 35 and 34, who have three children, gave up their butcher's business with a turnover of £90,000 to become ministers at Cateshead chapel, Tyne and Wear.

Hurd delivers a setback to colony hopes on democracy

FROM JONATHAN BRAUDE IN HONG KONG

HONG KONG's hopes that the arrival of Chris Patten as governor might signal a faster pace of democratic development received a setback yesterday when Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, appeared to soft-pedal on Britain's previous promise to press China for more seats in the local legislature to be directly elected.

While Mr Patten has left both China and Hong Kong guessing at the strength of his stand, Mr Hurd seemed to point to Britain's readiness to acquiesce to Peking's demands on the composition of the 1995 legislature. Conceding that Britain would have to consult Peking, Mr Hurd emphasised the need for continuity. "We would like to see the arrangements which we decide for 1995 carried through after 1997," he said.

Under the so-called through-train arrangement, legislators elected in 1995 will continue to serve for two years

after the colony returns to Chinese control. Britain and China agreed that 20 out of the 60 legislative council seats would be directly elected, but Mr Hurd left open the option of approaching China for more after Hong Kong's first direct elections last year.

In recent weeks China has repeatedly made it clear that it will not agree to any change in the post-1997 arrangements, sending the unmistakable message that unilateral changes in 1995 would rule out "continuity" and make it impossible for legislators to continue in office after the handover. Yet a poll published at the weekend showed 73 per cent of Hong Kong people believed Mr Patten should try to speed up the pace of democracy, even at the risk of confronting China.

Reflecting the high approval Mr Patten has won with his commitment to a more open and responsive style of government, the poll finding compared with 66 per cent a month earlier, when Lord Wilson, the previous governor, was still in office. The deliberate ambiguity of Mr Patten's position has worried the Chinese, who are stalling on the financing of Hong Kong's ambitious \$10 billion airport project in the hope of getting their way over political developments.

Mr Hurd, however, said he believed linking political disputes with the airport was not the best way to tackle matters. Announcing a new meeting of British and Chinese negotiators later this week to try to restart the stalled airport talks, Mr Hurd repeatedly said other decisions on Hong Kong's internal political structure were a matter for the governor.

Pro-Peking newspapers and Chinese officials based in Hong Kong have given warnings against the appointment of pro-democracy liberals to the executive council, Mr Patten's secretive advisory cabinet. However, Mr Patten has insisted appointments will be his decision alone.

Although Mr Hurd said the administration "would remain an executive-led government" — meaning the governor would retain the last say in decision-making — he added: "But within that principle, there are a number of possibilities" for overhauling the government.

Peking, China has leased a state-owned factory to a foreign company for the first time in four decades, marking another milestone in its efforts to turn around loss-making socialist industry. The *Economic Information Daily* reported that a plant manufacturing buses had been leased for 15 years to a Hong Kong company for \$11.5 million (£6 million). (Reuters)

President triumphs in Seychelles

FROM AIDAN HARTLEY IN VICTORIA, SEYCHELLES

VOTERS in the Seychelles yesterday gave President Rene, the socialist leader, an overwhelming victory in the country's first multiparty poll in 16 years.

Mr Rene's ruling Seychelles People's Progressive Front took 58.4 per cent of the 45,000 votes cast in a poll on a new democratic constitution for the Indian Ocean archipelago. He trounced seven new rival parties and Sir James Mancham, the man he overthrew in a 1977 army-backed coup. An extraordinary 90 per cent of voters voted to form a 20-man commission to draft a new constitution before December's presidential elections.

"The result shows people are mature enough to decide their own future," said Mr Rene, an austere former seaman who agreed to pluralism last December.

Sir James suggested the polls had been rigged against his main opposition Democratic party, which polled 33.7 per cent of votes. "We find the result difficult to believe, but we will carry on in the game until full democracy comes to the Seychelles," he said.

Commonwealth observers said the poll was fair and free. Political analysts said rural voters had backed Mr Rene, who created a welfare state that guaranteed social security, free education and health care. (Reuters)

The Liberal Democrats' strong showing was seen as



Animal magnetism: Chamlong Srimuang, the Thai pro-democracy leader, is cheered in Bangkok yesterday after registering as an election candidate

De Klerk to offer ANC way out of political deadlock

REFRESHED after their stay at a northern Transvaal bush camp, the South African cabinet has produced proposals aimed at breaking the deadlock in constitutional negotiations. Ministers are, however, not yet prepared to disclose what they are.

The ministers want to put a stop to recent public negotiation — described by Cyril Ramaphosa, secretary-general of the African National Congress, as "negotiation by memorandum" — and return to private discussion.

The cabinet's *hoshonad* (bush council), recalling those of the Boer war, showed there was still a good deal of room for manoeuvre on topics such as the election of an interim executive, or the limitation of the powers of the constitutional assembly. They plan to put their proposals informally to the ANC but do not expect any serious response until after next week's planned mass action.

Both sides now seem prepared to accept that the confrontation has to go ahead. Each seems anxious to test its strength against the worst the other can offer.

The row over deaths in police cells continues. Jonathan Gluckman, an eminent

Both sides in South Africa seem anxious to test their strength, writes Michael Hamlyn in Johannesburg

pathologist, claims that 90 per cent of those who died in police custody whose bodies he has examined had been killed. He was yesterday reported as saying that in the 24 hours since he first made his disclosure he had received two death threats.

Hernus Kriel, the law and order minister, has promised that there will be a re-examination of all cell deaths during the past two years, but human rights organisations say this is not good enough. The ANC, many of whose members are among those who have died, said yesterday that the police could not and should not investigate allegations against themselves.

The Human Rights Commission added fuel to the fire, saying that 29 people had died in detention between January 1990 and June 1992; 102 people had died in custody since 1963. Of them, 29

were reported to have hanged themselves. Other causes included "haemorrhage after hitting head against desk during interrogation", "accidental fall from tenth floor" and "slipped on soap".

Johan Laubscher, the official state pathologist in Pretoria, who conducted the post-mortem examination on Steve Biko in 1977, said yesterday that he had never worked on a case in which police were responsible for the death of a detainee. He added that, in the year of Biko's death, 47 people had died in custody in Britain.

Cyrus Vance, the United Nations special envoy, is continuing his mission in South Africa for a second week. Yesterday he met Carle Boshoff, leader of the Afrikaner Volkswag (people's guard), who believes in the establishment of a separate Afrikaner homeland. He also saw Kees van der Merwe, expelled from the Conservative party earlier this year, and met lawyers and human-rights activists.

Mr Vance will today see Andries Treurnicht, the leader of the Conservative party and one of South Africa's most powerful right-wing figures.

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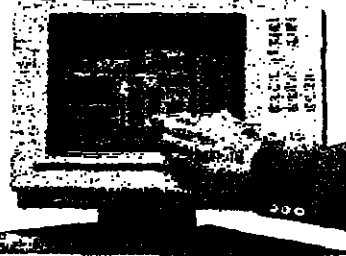
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Godfather of Medellín reaps benefit of investment in fear



Escobar: bribery and terror keys to power

ENVIGADO prison, from which Pablo Escobar, Colombia's most notorious drug trafficker, escaped last week, stands perched on a mountain top overlooking the city of Medellín. Built to the drug baron's specification, it is a visible reminder of the power which he holds over this city.

The world reacted with dismay to the news that Escobar and nine of his fellow leaders of the Medellín drug cartel had simply walked out of their jail a week ago; but in the town of Envigado, a suburb of Medellín, as police and soldiers fruitlessly scour the area for a trace of the missing men, the reaction is one of pride.

"This Pablo gave much to the poor people," explained one local man, sitting outside his neat whitewashed house. "We call him our father." The cartel owns Envigado — the prison, the town and the people, whose silence and

loyalty has been purchased with hand-outs from its vast drug profits.

The investment is now paying off. While specially-trained units of Colombian police continue to tramp through the surrounding jungle, Escobar is much more likely to be hiding in the town itself, safe in the knowledge that fear and bribery will prevent its citizens from turning him in.

Referred to variously as "the castle" and "the cathedral", Envigado prison, which still contains five cartel leaders and to which Escobar has said he will return if his conditions are met, is in fact a fortress — a series of low bungalows, surrounded by a wire fence, with a panoramic view of the Medellín valley.

The dirt road to the prison winds steeply out of the town, past banana plantations and through deep ravines of dense jungle. It is down this single

As police scour the area, the reaction to Escobar's escape locally is one of pride, writes Ben Macintyre in Medellín

track that Escobar and his henchmen are supposed to have escaped, probably in an army truck and disguised as soldiers — at the same time as at least 400 Colombian soldiers were going up it in order to move the prisoners to a military jail. That Escobar's driver managed to negotiate the hairpin bends in these circumstances is a tribute to his driving skills that Escobar escaped is a measure of the power of bribery.

Getting out of Envigado prison seems to be rather easier than getting into it. Since the break-out, thousands of troops have been poured into the area, but the first army checkpoint on the

way to "the cathedral" was deserted yesterday, except for a chicken. A second, just below the prison compound and inside the perimeter of the prison, contained two sleepy and trachous soldiers. For an hour they searched the taxi, the driver and me. Then they lounged on their rifles, having made it clear we were not going into the prison, or anywhere else. Several thousand pesos later, we were careering back down the mountain.

The area around Envigado is thick jungle, sparsely inhabited, impenetrable to vehicles and familiar only to a handful of Colombian trackers. The notion that the United States

might send in an assault team to kidnap Escobar and bring him to trial in America provoked mirth among the local people.

"I have lived in Envigado all my life," said one, "and I don't know where half the hiding places are. What do the Americans think they can do?"

People here were never in any doubt that Escobar controlled his own prison, or that, for the Medellín cartel, imprisonment meant murderous business as usual. Earlier this year, a former associate of Escobar, Ariel Otero, once a leader of Colombia's right-wing death squads, announced that the leader of the Medellín cartel had put out a contract on his life. He said he would provide police with documents connecting Escobar to a series of murders. Two days after Otero had talked to reporters, his mutilated corpse was found with a

note attached reading: "Ariel Otero: Traitor." Medellín's largest newspaper noted the murder, but decided not to mention the connection with Escobar.

Since June 1991, when the drug leader and his associates made a deal with the Colombian government to surrender, almost two dozen of their rivals or associates have been killed or have vanished.

Escobar made it a condition of his surrender, then as now, that he be held at Envigado for reasons that have since become apparent.

Augusto Bahamon Dussan, a retired colonel who had supervised the building of the prison, wrote in his memoirs earlier this year that the cocaine trafficker had insisted the jail be built on his own land and personally supervised every aspect of its construction. "Escobar bought 11 more farms around the place

to rid himself of inquisitive neighbours and completely dominate the mountain ridge," wrote Señor Bahamon in *My War in Medellín*.

While President Gaviria, claimed that the jail was "a place specifically designed to hold dangerous criminals", Señor Bahamon's book made it clear that every aspect of the installation, from the layout of electric fences to possible avenues of fire in case of attack, was intended to keep Escobar safe, rather than in prison. Señor Bahamon, who is currently under police protection and plans to emigrate, said that of the 20 "guards" assigned to Escobar, 11 had criminal records.

In the remote possibility that Escobar is captured and brought to trial, after his latest show of strength it is more doubtful than ever that anyone can be persuaded to testify against him.

Iraq tries to snatch propaganda victory from US standoff

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN CAIRO

IRAQ'S prime minister yesterday described the climbdown over the inspection of the agriculture ministry as "a brilliant victory" as Baghdad's propaganda machine struggled to put a gloss on what was seen in other parts of the Arab world as a crushing defeat.

The campaign to portray the eleventh-hour decision to back away from military confrontation with the West was regarded by diplomats as an attempt to prevent humiliation further weakening President Saddam Hussein at home.

Hamza az-Zoubaidi, the prime minister, told a meeting of the ruling Baath party: "The United Nations' acceptance of Iraq's proposals about the naming of people who will visit it for inspection is a brilliant victory. This victory has incarnated the solid national will of the Iraqis to rally around the leadership of President Saddam Hussein, who

led the battle with great courage and wisdom." He added that Iraq was "capable of thwarting the objectives of the US-Zionist conspiracy".

Diplomats said that many ordinary Iraqis would have heard a different account of the stand-off through foreign radio reports. But those who took their views directly from the state-controlled media might be persuaded that the change in UN personnel was a success for the Iraqi position.

"Saddam is a leader who thrives on confrontation," one diplomatic source said. "Without confrontation, he sees himself as finished. But on this occasion, he has again got to portray a defeat as a victory."

In Egypt, which like most Arab countries had shown no enthusiasm for renewed military action against Baghdad, the three main Cairo dailies depicted Iraq as backing down in order to meet the terms of the security council's

resolutions. Among ordinary Egyptians there was widespread relief that conflict had been avoided.

"We do not like Saddam. He is bad in the head. But we like war even less. I do not know anyone who wanted the attacks to begin again," said Ahmed Bisha, owner of a grocery shop. "We want to go on with our normal life. We do not want the problems of last year again — we have enough of our own."

As well as claiming victory over the ministry stand-off, Baghdad officials and the state-controlled media also stepped up attacks yesterday against the UN and the Gulf war ceasefire terms laid down 17 months ago.

Abdullah Mohsen, Saddam's press secretary, claimed in an article, written after the agreement to allow UN inspectors into the ministry tomorrow, that the resolutions were written by "scoundrels and lowly people". In his second such vitriolic attack in three days he added: "We owe nothing to the security council."

Mr. Mohsen had earlier branded the inspectors as "criminal murderers and streetwalkers", and called on Iraqis to insult them at every turn. It was not clear last night what public reception would be given to the new "neutral" inspection team, and in particular the two American members who are due to remain outside the ministry collecting information.

Mr. Mohsen wrote yesterday that the security council and its resolutions, many of which Iraq has been flouting with greater openness in recent weeks, were despicable. "We have nothing else to do but despise them... and march ahead, trampling on their decision and the resolutions of their council under our feet," he said. "Lift the sanctions and compensate Iraq for the damages inflicted upon it."

In Kurdish-controlled northern Iraq it was claimed by Kurdish officials that before backing down Iraq had considered the possibility of testing the use of force by the West, and had taken steps to counter it. Ahmed Shaker, an official of the front which groups the main Kurdish parties, said Baghdad had issued a call last week to all Iraqi men aged between 25 and 30 to report to conscription stations.

An American military officer in the Kurdish city of Zhaku, near the Turkish border, confirmed recently that an Iraqi build-up near the Kurdish-controlled zone.

US fleet advance, page 1



Holy roller: Sister Mary Ann, 59, skating at the nursing home where she works in Utica, New York state. New to the sport, she has yet to take to the streets

Tunis militant trial reopens

FROM ALFRED HERMIDA IN ALGIERS

MORE than a hundred Islamic fundamentalists accused of belonging to the Commandos of Sacrifice militant group went on trial before a military tribunal in Tunisia yesterday.

Among the defendants are about 30 members of the security forces, including several officers. The fundamentalists are accused of plotting to overthrow the state through violence, and most of them risk the death penalty if they are convicted.

According to the authorities,

the group formed the military wing of Tunisia's banned Ennahdha (Renaissance) Islamic party. They say the group was active in several military bases and that many of those now standing trial were trained in the firing and dismantling weapons. The authorities say the group was planning a series of attacks on public buildings when it was dismantled in December 1990.

The trial resumed yesterday after being adjourned at the beginning of July to give the

defence more time to prepare its case. The prosecution bases much of its case on a tape recording by Mohammed Habib Lafoued, 34, an engineer and leader of the Commandos of Sacrifice. "We are a band of believers and trust in an armed jihad [holy war] as a way of bringing change," he said in the recording which was played in court. "We believe in insurrectionary revolutionary action as a way of overthrowing the regime and setting up an Islamic state," he added.

Pressure grows for Collor's removal

FROM MAC MARGOLIS IN RIO DE JANEIRO

PRESSURE to have President Collor de Mello of Brazil removed from office is increasing as a special congressional enquiry digs deeper into the alleged financial misdeeds of his government.

Since early last month, the enquiry has heard dozens of witnesses and reviewed a stack of documents that threaten to implicate Senator Collor in a series of irregularities, ranging from bank fraud to illegal kickbacks on government contracts. Although the inquiry has yet to produce irrefutable proof tying the president to his friends and aides, the political toll has already become enormous.

Important politicians, businessmen and academics speak openly of impeachment or resignation, and fearfully of a possible coup. In the last half century only one elected leader in Brazil has managed to serve his full term. One committed suicide and the others fell in coups engineered by the military and other politicians.

The mood of the Brazilian elite seems to assume an imminent change of government," said Alexandre de Barros, a political scientist who runs a risk analysis firm. Two years ago, when Senator Collor, then 41, became the first president to take office through a direct vote in nearly 30 years, he seemed all but unshakable. The energetic politician charmed the public with impassioned speeches, calling for an end to corruption and promising an economic revolution.

His fortunes turned abruptly last June, when his younger brother, Pedro, went to the press with a series of allegations against a businessman, Paulo Cesar Farias, who served as Senator Collor's treasurer during the 1989 presidential campaign. Senator Collor retracted part of his accusations, but they were enough to launch a parliamentary inquiry.

Almost daily over the past six weeks, the hearings have turned up new shards of evidence pointing to how Senator Farias commanded a virtual "parallel government", involving the president's name at will and throwing millions of pounds in government money and contracts to friends and allies. Senator Farias is also alleged to have used false names and fictitious bank accounts to pay for repairs on Senator Collor's home and a £10,500 monthly allowance for the first lady, Rosane Collor.

"It seems harder and harder for the president to dissociate himself from the scandals that surround P. C. [Farias]," Emerson Kapaz, a prominent São Paulo industrialist, said in a television interview.

The congressional enquiry is expected to finish on August 11. But the Brazilian public may already have given its

verdict. Senator Collor, who once soared in popularity, has tumbled in the polls. The man who spoke of throwing out scoundrels and corrupt politicians is now fighting not to be swept out of office. "At the very least Collor is already a lame duck, and with two years remaining to his elected term," said Senator Barros.

When questioned in Spain, where he spent five days attending the Ibero-American summit, Senator Collor dismissed allegations and said he was not worried about the scandal at home.

Both Senator Collor and Senator Farias have repeatedly denied the allegations against them. Senator Collor even went on television to reject claims that anyone other than himself was responsible for his personal expenses.

Meanwhile, Claudio Vieira, a former close presidential aide, is to give testimony to the enquiry for the second time.

Paris starts Maastricht campaign

Paris: France's ruling Socialist party yesterday launched its campaign for a "yes" vote in September's referendum on the Maastricht treaty, concentrating on a simple message rather than detailed analysis of the treaty's contents (See MacCarthy page 1).

Laurent Fabius, the party secretary, said that among a section of the French public there was "a Woody Allen-type perception of this referendum". Their attitude seemed to be: "The answer is no, but remind me what the question is," he said.

Aids suit

Paris: Two radical French lawyers have filed a suit in an attempt to bring to trial three former government ministers over the infection of thousands of people with Aids-contaminated blood in the mid-1980s. (Reuter)

Claim rejected

Berlin: A court approved plans for a business centre on the site of Checkpoint Charlie, the former Berlin Wall crossing. It dismissed a case by a woman who claimed it was on land she owned before the wall was built. (Reuter)

Coach crashes

Vernon, New Jersey: A bus heading for an amusement park apparently lost its brakes, hit a car, overturned and burst into flames, killing at least five people and injuring 37, many of them children and young adults. (AP)

Plotter wins

Port Moresby: Paul Tobian, a former police commissioner of Papua New Guinea, charged with treason for allegedly leading a failed coup in 1990, was appointed defence minister in a new cabinet. (AP)

Killer still free

Canberra: An Australian man, 42, who has admitted murdering a woman 19 years ago, a crime for which his innocent husband spent ten years in jail, was allowed to remain a free man until sentencing. (Reuter)

Grave matter

Rotterdam, New Zealand: As recession bites, the council here is offering discounts to people willing to dig the graves of their dead relatives. (Reuter)

Blunder by UN chief marks him for failure

The honeymoon is clearly over for the United Nations new secretary-general, James Bone writes from New York

A WHISPERING campaign has already begun at the United Nations suggesting that Boutros Boutros Ghali, the organisation's secretary-general, will not last his full five-year term in office.

Officials eagerly swap stories about their new boss's alleged high-handedness, and diplomats drop hints about his advancing age — estimated at anywhere between 69 and 71. But his close aides dismiss the speculation that Dr Boutros Ghali will be forced to step down, saying he is a thick-skinned man used to the much rougher world of Egyptian politics.

But one thing is clear: the honeymoon is over. Appointed in January as the first UN head from Africa, Dr Boutros

not recommend its implementation. One of the reasons he gave was "the question of priorities".

"My concern is that if the security council continues to concentrate its attention and resources to such an extent on Yugoslav problems, this will be at the expense of the organisation's ability to help resolve equally cruel and dangerous conflicts elsewhere, for example in Somalia," he said. A few days later, despite his assertion that the UN was "stretched to breaking point", he proposed an ambitious plan to establish what amounts to a UN protectorate over Somalia, where law and order has broken down and starvation threatens millions of people. Normally, the secretary-general's argument about priorities would have won support from many members of the UN who are Third World countries suspicious of the great powers' First World agenda. But Dr Boutros Ghali had already alienated many of his natural constituents, so that when the crunch came he had few allies.

Developing nations have been appalled by his move to merge all the economic offices at the UN into one department, while expanding the political wing of the UN secretariat. They fear he intends to shift the UN's economic responsibilities to the Western-dominated International Monetary Fund and World Bank.

Powerful Third World members of the security council also object to him lecturing council members about their priorities. The affront is felt even more severely by Western nations, particularly Britain, France and the United States, the three Western powers holding veto power in the security council.

Dr Boutros Ghali's problems, however, go beyond the present dispute about "priorities" and involve his personal style. Lacking the previous UN experience that Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, his predecessor, had when he started in the job, Dr Boutros Ghali has won few friends.



Ghali made a serious tactical blunder last week by challenging the decision of the 15-nation security council to endorse the first London peace accord on Bosnia-Herzegovina. Instead of meeting a deadline to report on how the UN would go about monitoring heavy weaponry in the former Yugoslav republic after a ceasefire, Dr Boutros Ghali sent a furious letter to security council members complaining that he had not been consulted before they approved the plan.

Admitting "problems of communication internal to the secretariat", the secretary-general, traditionally regarded as the "servant of the council", said he considered the monitoring plan to be not realistic. The next day he presented the council with the report it had demanded, saying that 1,100 new peacekeepers would be needed to oversee the heavy weaponry at 62 locations. He added, however, that he could

French scorn mars Barcelona's Olympic show

FROM CHARLES BRENNER IN BARCELONA

A BARCELONA newspaper, *El Periodico*, yesterday proudly proclaimed: "Barcelona seduces the world".

Well, not quite. While everyone from *The New York Times* to President Castro of Cuba raved about the opening ceremony, the French made clear they were unimpressed. The best President Mitterrand could manage on leaving the Montjuic stadium was that he had enjoyed the singing. Yesterday the French piled on the insults. "A disappointment," said *L'Equipe*, the sports paper. "Too many Spanish clichés." *Le Figaro* blithely dismissed it as an "absurd... boring... grandiose failure".

"Why don't they like us? It's terribly worrying," said a Spanish television commentator. Others might ignore French scorn but not Barcelona, which has its antennae exquisitely tuned to the image which it is doubling the world. French ridicule is doubly wounding because Catalonia likes to depict itself as closer to the spirit of France than to the baroque and emotional power of Madrid. Catalan, that strange-sounding first official language of the Games, is of course closely related to Provençal.

So great is the fear of Olympic failure or fiasco that anxiety seems to be the predominant mood of Barcelona. "How can we possibly put up with so much emotion?" asked *El Periodico*, referring to the seemingly incredible feat of Barcelona winning

the Spanish football league and the European Cup and staging a successful Olympics all within two months.

Given that they enjoy autonomy and a national parliament, the Catalans have been wearing down both fellow Spaniards, who paid more than £80 a head in taxes for the Games, and foreign visitors with their endless talk about their national identity. Conservative Madrid politicians were steaming yesterday because King Juan Carlos had been greeted with the Catalan anthem, called *The Reapers*, which commemorates the slaughter of Catalans by a gang of Catalan farm workers in the 17th century. Just when everyone agreed that the Games had been "Catalanised" enough, Jordi Pujol, the nationalist president of the Catalan government,

yesterday complained that his "country" was still denied political and economic freedom. "Catalonia is a nation like Slovenia or Estonia," he said.

Nobody better represents the Catalans' ambivalence about themselves than Joan Antonio Samaranch, 72, president of the International Olympic Committee, who has taken to travelling in an armoured car. He is hailed as the Catalan who brought the Games to Barcelona and at the same time everyone remembers he worked for decades as a high official in the Franco regime, which did its best to eradicate Catalan culture. So touchy are his compatriots that he is jumped on if he so much as pronounces Barcelona with the Castilian "th" instead of the Catalan "y".

Serbs accused of using UN enclave to attack Bosnia

FROM TIM JUDAH IN ZAGREB

ON THE eve of an international conference on refugees from the former Yugoslavia, senior United Nations officials have issued a warning that the military situation in north-western Bosnia has taken a dramatic new turn and that the expulsion of 400,000 people is imminent.

Jean-Claude Concolato, an official of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, said: "Either we stop the policy of ethnic cleansing now or the international community is soon going to have to swallow these people."

While Bosnian Serb forces continue their triumphant march through the north of the republic, another UN official, who asked not to be named, said soldiers from Serb-held territories in Croatia were now heavily involved in the war in Bosnia and were advancing on the solidly Muslim area of Cazvin. The allegation is explosive because he said they were attacking across the Bosnian frontier from their Croatian enclave, which is now under United Nations control.

Serb forces in what is known as Krajina were supposed to have begun demobilising and disarming under UN supervision on July 2. If they are now attacking Cazvin, they have made a mockery of the UN plan by only handing in a small part of their weaponry and by now advancing on an area outside the UN mandate.

The UN official said: "The area is overwhelmingly populated by Muslims, and while the Serbs have told us they are not interested in it, we know they are carrying out an offensive and that this is being reinforced by Krajina Serb troops coming across the border to attack."

The allegation that Krajina Serb militiamen were launching an offensive on a UN zone was swiftly denied by Charles Kirudja, the UN chief of civil affairs in the area. "There were incursions before July 2 but we got in touch with the authorities and we observed their men returning. If such

attacks were taking place our observers would have reported them," Mr Kirudja said, however, that it was possible that a small number of Krajina Serb fighters had now joined up with Bosnian Serb units to drive the Muslims from the Cazvin region but only from the Bosnian side of the border.

While officials involved in the UN's Croatia operation would certainly be keen to play down lapses in the UN plan to avoid problems with Croatia, the UN high commissioner is far more concerned about the threat of a big new wave of refugees.

Deportees from the town of Bosanski Novi, which was ethnically cleansed by the Serb authorities last week, reported seeing Krajina Serb militiamen in town. M. Concolato, who had negotiated with Bosanski Novi's authorities in order to prevent the mass expulsion, said yesterday that he regarded the deportations as a defeat.

He said: "The blackmail was simple and the terms of the deal were clear. There was pressure on the lives of these people and the authorities said: 'Take them or you will be responsible for the bad things that will happen'."

M. Concolato, the commissioner's chief liaison officer in Zagreb, said the deportation of more than 7,000 people from Bosanski Novi was a turning point that the commissioner had been desperate to prevent to avoid creating a precedent which could affect the 400,000 other Muslims in the area. He also said that negotiations had been particularly difficult because the commissioner had had to bear in mind the safety of hundreds of prisoners locked in the town's sports stadium and that UN troops on the Croatian side of the Una river had found corpses floating.

M. Concolato said that he thought the only way to prevent the deportation of the rest of northwestern Bosnia's non-Serb population was to extend the UN's mandate in former Yugoslavia and create a UN-protected area there.



Journey's end: jubilant members of a Bosnian refugee family on board a train arriving at Hanau station in Germany yesterday. More than 380 refugees made the 15-hour trip from the Croatian town of Karlovac. Another round of peace talks on Bosnia has opened in London, chaired by Jose Cutleiro, the EC mediator

Talks to start on British warship

BY MICHAEL EVANS AND DAVID WATTS, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The Royal Navy frigate, HMS *Avenger*, on sanction-busting patrol in the Adriatic, has been put on standby to provide "neutral territory" for a meeting tomorrow between Croat and Serb military leaders over the continued presence of federal forces around Dubrovnik.

While attention has focused on Bosnia, the European Community monitors in Croatia have been continuing attempts to separate the warring factions around the ancient walled port. Under a plan proposed by Cyrus Vance, the United Nations envoy, and accepted by both Croatia and Serbia, the federal forces should have begun withdrawing from the area but the initiative has stalled. An artillery shell is also fired into the city from time to time, although the city was relatively calm yesterday.

An initial meeting was held outside Dubrovnik last week between General David Cranstoun, the British deputy head of the operational side of the EC monitor mission, and representatives of the two sides. However, there were

"technical difficulties" and the location of future meetings emerged as one of the most sensitive issues.

The British government offered the services of the Royal Navy warship which was dispatched to the Adriatic after the decision by the Western European Union, the nine-nation Western defence organisation, to send ships to monitor vessels attempting to break the United Nations arms and trade embargo against Serbia and Montenegro.

Although the offer has not yet been finally accepted by the two sides, a meeting on board HMS *Avenger* is expected to go ahead tomorrow. General Cranstoun will again represent the EC monitor mission. It is not clear who will represent the Croats and Serbs.

Foreign Office officials said the EC monitoring mission in Croatia had been trying to arrange talks between the Croats and Serbs for about ten days. There are currently 150 EC monitors in Croatia, 13 of whom are British. An official said: "Dubrovnik remains a potential flashpoint and EC

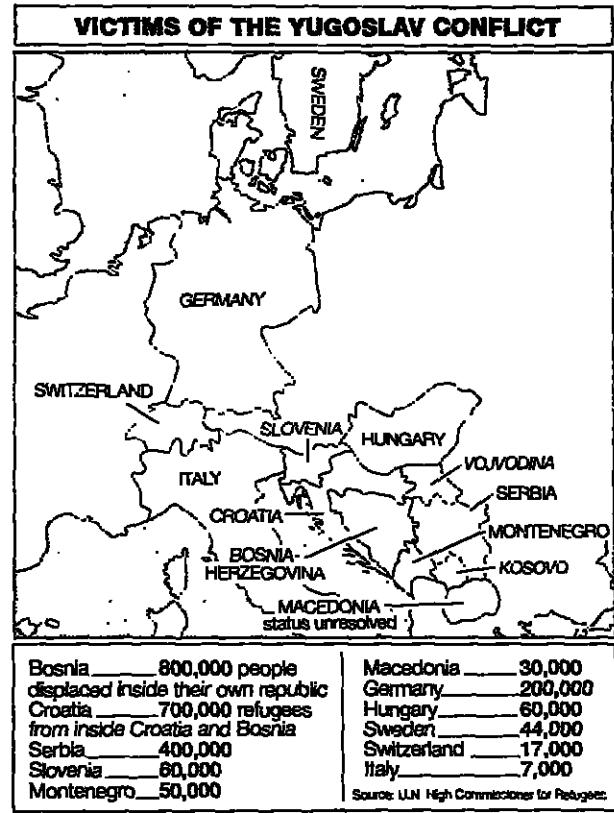
monitors have been doing a great deal to separate the warring parties. Their efforts have gone unnoticed because of the focus on Bosnia."

Even as the latest peace talks on Bosnia were opening in London yesterday, the leader of the Bosnian Muslim delegation Haris Silajdzic, accused the Serbs of using the talks as camouflage for a declaration of Serbian Bosnia-Herzegovina's borders.

The discussions under Jose Cutleiro, the chairman of the European Community's conference on Bosnia, were given little chance of success but the Portuguese diplomat said there were many precedents for negotiations taking place parallel with fighting. The talks will examine the constitutional questions arising out of the Yugoslav quagmire and follow the spectacular failure

of the last round in London under Lord Carrington which agreed a ceasefire that was broken within hours.

With the weekend announcement of the special conference on Yugoslavia next month, Lord Carrington in an interview with *The Times* Mr Silajdzic stated: "These talks are being used to declare the borders of this Serbian region and make it an actual fact. Meanwhile the aggression, the expulsion of the population and the killing continues. Now there are 57 concentration camps and 95,000 people detained. Forty tanks were being used in this new round of ethnic cleansing" and up to 50,000 had been killed recently in areas "where there are no monitors, no journalists, nobody to see what's going on. Some of them are dying in a horrible way," he said.



Astronauts develop a taste for high living on space missions

BY NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

TENSION around the dinner table can be expected when the American shuttle *Atlantis* blasts off on Friday on a seven-day mission to launch a European Space Agency and an Italian satellite.

While the five-man American crew will have to content themselves with crackers and peanut butter to supplement the freeze-dried staples, their two European guests, their two European guests, have demanded less pedestrian fare, it emerged yesterday. Claude Nicollier, a Swiss astronaut with the European Space Agency, and Franco Malerba, an Italian, have persuaded NASA to allow them a considerable amount of gourmet food in keeping with their national eating habits.

High on the menu are truffles followed by parmesan and Swiss cheeses, mussels and alpine chocolate. Signor Malerba indicated yesterday that once they begin unwrapping the delicacies the tempta-

tion might be too much for their American colleagues. "I am sure there will be more than one customer for it," he said.

American astronauts are becoming quite familiar with the European trend towards fine dining in space as an increasing number of foreigners join shuttle missions. The Italian and the Swiss astronauts will be the fourth and fifth non-Americans to fly this year. The honour for starting this trend towards gourmet meals on US space missions is given to Patrick Baudry, a French astronaut who flew on the shuttle *Discovery* in 1985. He had paté, crab mousse, lobster in sauce l'Americaine and juggled hare a l'Alsacienne prepared to his own recipe and canned especially for the flight. However, he was not allowed to open a bottle of French wine which he had smuggled on board.

The foreign trend towards

elaborate meals has presented food scientists at NASA's Johnson Space Centre in Houston with additional work. A heat-resistant Swiss chocolate had to be found for this week's mission because there is no fridge on the shuttle and the lockers in which the food is stored can reach 79 degrees Fahrenheit.

The NASA food team have also been testing different brands of tofu in an aircraft that simulates weightlessness in order to satisfy Mamoru Mohri, a Japanese astronaut who is set to fly in September. Research showed that in weightless conditions his favourite brand splashed because it contained too much water. However, the NASA scientists have approved his requests of Japanese apples, Japanese mushrooms, rice crackers, pickled plums, soy sauce, seaweed soup, dried seaweed wrappers and sweet sakura tea.

Soyuz crew to remove Mir's Soviet flag

FROM REUTERS IN MOSCOW

THE Soyuz TM-15 spacecraft, with two Russians and a French researcher on board, blasted off from the Baikonur space centre yesterday on a mission to the Mir space station.

The liftoff was at 7.09 am London time from the steps of Kazakhstan, home to much of the once-mighty Soviet space programme. Among the planned tasks is the removal of the defunct hammer-and-sickle flag from the station's mast.

Soyuz is scheduled to link up with Mir, in operation since 1986, tomorrow. Cosmonauts Anatoly Soloviyov, 44, a space veteran, and Sergei Avdeyev, 36, will deploy new equipment to help keep the station working. They will remain on board until January. Frenchman Michel Tognigni, 42, will return next month after completing experiments.

Castro tours land where his father was born

The Cuban leader Fidel Castro arrived in Santiago de Compostela, for a two-day stay during which he was scheduled to make his first visit to his father's birthplace in the northwestern region of Galicia. Dr Castro and his entourage were greeted by Galicia regional government president, Manuel Fraga on their arrival.

Señor Fraga, a former minister and ambassador under the authoritarian regime of General Franco, invited the Cuban leader to visit Galicia during his visit to the former Spanish colony in the Caribbean earlier this year.

President Carlos Salinas de Gortari of Mexico has begun a three-day official visit to Hungary to discuss developing bilateral relations at the invitation of President Gombos and the prime minister, Jozsef

Antall. They were accompanied by Mexican businessmen who will meet Hungarian business leaders.

The American diva Jessie Norman has cancelled her European concert tour for "reasons of health and vocal fatigue". The tour was to have included concerts in Monte Carlo and in Salzburg.

Former King Michael of Romania, in exile for 45 years, came under heavy pressure from Bucharest opposition leaders at the weekend to stand for election to the presidency. But the 70-year-old former monarch remained reluctant to become involved in electoral politics but will consider the appeal and respond soon. He met leaders of the Liberal Party and of the powerful Democratic Convention

alliance at his Versoix home near Geneva.

Nica Ceausescu, 40, son of the executed dictator Nicolae Ceausescu, may have his prison sentence shortened following a Supreme Court ruling which revised the charges against him. The court accepted an appeal by prosecutors to drop the genocide charge for which he is serving 16 years and to substitute the charge "attempting to incite aggravated murder".

Pierre Cardin is threatening to defy the hallowed traditions of Parisian fashion by cutting back on the number of annual shows. The Cardin fashion house said that in future it plans to present one haute couture and one ready-to-wear show each year rather than two of each.

"The rules were made a long time ago and it's time to shake them up. The world is evolving," Cardin spokesman Bernard Danillion said. "Distance has been revolutionised by airplanes. Why not show winter and summer wear together? If a woman goes to Greece or Miami beach in the winter she'll need a summer dress."

Queen Margrethe of Denmark visited the Estonian capital of Tallinn, the first royal visit to the newly-independent Baltic state. The Queen, 52, who will also visit Latvia and Lithuania, arrived in the historic port in late afternoon. She was cheered by crowds as she waved from the balcony of the town hall. The visit is intended to cement relations between Denmark and the Baltic states.

U.S. Congressional Majority Declares Support for Iranian Resistance Led by Massoud Rajavi

1,500 parliamentarians in 20 countries condemn mullahs' human rights abuses, April 5 air raid on a Resistance base

House members, Marvyn M. Dymally (D-CA), Helen Delich Bentley (R-AD), and Robert G. Torricelli (D-NJ) announce in a statement

219 U.S. Lawmakers Urge UN Security Council to Impose Oil and Arms Embargo on Rafsanjani Government

Text of statement

As we witness the rapid advancement towards peace, democracy and international understanding, the international community remains concerned about violations of the most basic and fundamental human rights by the Rafsanjani administration in Iran.

Last year, the Iranian regime's official media reported a dramatic increase in official public executions and stonings. In March of this year, the United Nations Commission on Human Rights and the European Parliament adopted resolutions condemning this increase in executions and human rights violations, and called for the continued monitoring of the human rights situation in Iran.

In 1991, we witnessed a new wave of suppression of women. According to official media reports, tens of thousands of women were flogged or arrested for improper veiling. The suppression and violation of the rights of religious and ethnic minorities also continued. Meanwhile, Rafsanjani's diplomats launched a new campaign of assassinations abroad. The call for Salman Rushdie's execution was reiterated, and the Italian and Japanese translations of his book were attacked, resulting in the death of the latter. Thus ended the myth of Rafsanjani's "moderation".

The Rafsanjani government again breached international law when it crossed the borders in an air raid on one of the bases of the National

Liberation Army of Iran on April 5, 1992. This revealed, on the one hand, its fear of the Iranian people's Resistance and, on the other, again demonstrated that this regime has no respect for international norms or commitments.

Due to its economic bankruptcy and internal crisis, the mounting public protests, demonstrations, and popular resistance, the Rafsanjani regime is obliged to never before to oppose regional peace, and to instigate crises and export terrorism and fundamentalism abroad.

The spread of fundamentalism in the Islamic World is an official policy of this religious dictatorship ruling Iran, intended to realize its dreams of expansionism. Iran's rulers openly declared aspirations for the republics of the former Soviet Union, their export of fundamentalism to Algeria, Sudan, Tunisia, Egypt, Jordan, and Turkey; and their campaign to acquire nuclear weapons have set off alarm bells. This situation requires an active approach to the ominous phenomenon of fundamentalism which will prevent the Iranian regime from taking advantage of the religious sentiments of the people of the region.

Therefore, the time has come for the free world to form a common front against fundamentalism with those fighting for peace and democracy against the Iranian regime. In announcing a specific programme and determining responsible policies vis-a-vis recent

international developments, the National Council of Resistance of Iran, led by Mr. Massoud Rajavi, has demonstrated that it is determined and able to contribute to peace and stability in this sensitive region.

Reports from impartial sources confirm that the NCR, backed by its military wing, the National Liberation Army of Iran, backed by the populace, and in step with strikes and demonstrations over the past few months within Iran, is capable of establishing freedom and democracy in Iran. Experience has shown that this resistance's profound popular and religious roots within Iran's people are the best impediment to the Iranian regime's abuse of popular religious sentiments. Hence, this resistance is the solution to the phenomenon of fanatic fundamentalism.

We are convinced that support for the National Council of Resistance will contribute to the achievement of peace and stability for all the countries of the region. Moreover, it is essential that the international community respond appropriately to the Iranian regime's policies stretching over more than a decade, of home-taking export of terrorism, trampling of international covenants, and internal repression.

Given the sensitivity and importance of peace and stability in the Middle East region, it is appropriate that the United Nations Security Council raise the issue of an embargo on oil and arms to the ruling regime in Iran.

MPs from Austria, Belgium, Britain, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Jordan, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan, Portugal, San Marino, Spain, and Sweden:

"Myth of Rafsanjani's moderation has come to an end"

The statement reads in part

"The violation of international law by the Rafsanjani government has taken on dangerous dimensions as on April 5, the Iranian Air Force breached international borders and bombarded one of the bases of the National Liberation Army of Iran deep inside the Iraqi territory."

The deputies also referred to other forms of disregard for international obligations and added: "These actions demonstrate that nearly three years after Khomeini's death, the myth of moderation has come to an end. The spread of acts of protest in Iran and the overwhelming boycott of the regime's election force upon the call by the

Iranian Resistance, demands greater international attention and support for the democratic alternative - the National Council of Resistance. The extremely sensitive situation of this region requires a decisive response by the international community against the Iranian regime. The unique role of the U.N. Security Council during the

current state of the world's affairs warrants the Council's condemnation of the Iranian regime for the air raid on an NLA base and its blatant violation of the Security Council's resolution 598. Before the region is again engulfed in an all-encompassing crisis, the Council must impose an oil and arms embargo on the regime.

Society of Iranian Academics BM Box 2998, LONDON WC1N 3XX

Woodrow Wyatt

The Derby should be run and punters able to bet on a Sunday

Congratulations to the Jockey Club and to John Sanderson, chief executive at Doncaster racecourse and a member of the Tote board (of which I am chairman) for their skill in dodging the legal pitfalls of opening a racecourse on Sunday. Months of preparation resulted in the true starting prices on Sunday being the Tote dividends shown on our screens at Doncaster. Bookmakers' odds during last week were mostly quite different with an on-course betting market. Tote Credit, lawful by phone on Sunday, put £118.363 into its pools, of which 21 per cent came from Coral, owned by Bass, the Tote's partner in a new venture, Tote Direct, which in the autumn will begin to link about a thousand Coral and Tote betting shops automatically to Tote pools on course.

On Sunday the Tote pools collected six times as much legal off-course money as on Saturday March 21, the day of the Lincoln Handicap, the year's first big flat race betting. The popularity of Sunday racing was proved. On Sunday November 15, there will be a meeting at Cheltenham. The Tote board would dearly like to have betting on the course and in its betting shops. As it would be a criminal offence. By then the already high penalty on first conviction will have been raised to a possible £5,000 or up to a year in prison for the whole board, or both. Although many people might be pleased to have me behind bars, I am not willing to risk indulging them. Bookmakers on the course would face similar risks, and off-course betting shops opening for the Cheltenham meeting will be liable to a £1,000 fine plus the prospect of losing their valuable licences.

This is not an example of Sunday trading in which retailers in many areas flout the law and escape prosecution or suffer no more than a small fine. Last year I gave evidence to the European Community commission on gambling. I emphasised that the British gambling laws are contrary to Community competition laws. Racing cannot compete with other sports in Britain which freely flout the law by charging admission on Sundays, the best days for sporting events. Nor can British racing compete with continental racing, which stages crowd-pulling programmes on Sundays.

British trainers and owners are drawn abroad by the hope of spectacular prizes for their top horses. As the animals usually need at least two weeks, sometimes rather more, to recover from their foreign exertions, they are not available for some time to race in Britain, so lowering racecourse attendances. This year's Derby meeting at Epsom was a ghastly flop, in terms both of attendance and of the betting in off-course shops, a percentage of which goes to back into racing by way of the levy. Holding the Derby on a Sunday would enormously improve racing finances, as would regular Sunday meetings. The EC is reluctant to interfere with Britain's gambling laws under the new interpretation of subsidiarity emerging, but nevertheless I intend to urge the Commission that this is a proper matter for intervention.

The alternative is for the government to enact a bill similar to the Sunday Sports Bill piloted through the Lords with the approval of the Home Office and the Department of Employment. In December 1987, this was blocked by the reactionary Commons. My bill would have permitted normal betting on race-tracks and the opening of off-course betting shops during racing on Sundays. If the government were brave enough to whip through a bill like mine it would not only please voters, but avoid the awkwardness with Brussels I aim to ferment.

Burglar alarms are not just ugly, they divert crime to the house next door, argues Matthew Parris

For whom the alarm tolls

You may need planning permission to fix a burglar alarm box to your house. Town hall planning officers, prompted by complaints from the public, have been reminding the nouveau-security-minded that these fixtures may alter the character of a listed building, so planning permission should be sought. In Chichester, the assistant chief planning officer, Sam Howes, explained that he is "not going out looking for them", but when they are brought to his attention, he has to insist that there is no right to make such changes unless they are deemed to be "in character".

Like portable phones and car security systems, domestic burglar alarms straddle an awkward frontier between utility and pose. In those who do not possess them they excite conflicting responses, with instinctive hostility playing a part — a mixture of irritation, envy and interest. Viewed objectively, the small shiny red box just under your gutter may be less noticeable than a large pot of scarlet geraniums in your win-

dow, but to passers-by (and, I suspect, even to those who think that their concern is with architectural heritage), the box is a sort of permanent boast, screwed to the wall: "The contents of my house are valuable, and I want you to know it." We feel tempted to respond with something less friendly than "Gosh!"

But an alarm box says more than this. Most importantly, it says to would-be thieves: "Don't even think about breaking in." This is why the argument for unobtrusive, camouflaged or invisible boxes is lost from the start. Visibility is the point. There is already a market in dummy alarm boxes, brightly painted, and householders have been known to make do with a biscuit tin and a can of red lacquer.

This is a fixture to which the eye is drawn. We notice it because we look for it. Unconsciously we scan

the frontages of smart houses for signs of status, just as we scan the faces of those we meet for the tiny things — the slightest frown, the golden earrings, the grey at the hair-roots — that tell us what we want to know. A hotshot would not notice burglar alarms: their visibility is not an architectural fact: it is a function of our conditioning, not our vision. Whether planning laws should take account of this is an interesting question.

As more and more houses sprout these directions to burglars to try the house next door, the pressure on the house next door to accept a visit from the security salesman grows. It may be (as the police have claimed) that casual crime expands to match opportunity for casual crime, but I wonder how much of our mushrooming high-security industry — ranging from locks

and alarms to neighbourhood watch schemes, and the engraving of identification marks onto every valuable item — actually amounts to no more than a sophisticated beggar-my-neighbour process, in which risk is not reduced but shifted somewhere else. To how many professional thieves is modern security a spur to quit crime, rather than just a nudge to commit it somewhere else? Has the increasing wizardry of modern burglar-proofing led to a corresponding upgrading of the burglar's own skills?

Another form of displacing the effects of crime is the strange and often irrational industry we call "insurance". This is a polite name for transferring from one group (called victims) onto another group (called policyholders), the cost and risk of crime, swelled by a hefty supplement of dishonest

claims, and further augmented by misadventures arising from the carelessness of a policyholder who thought it didn't matter because he was insured anyway. The interplay between crime and the measures we take to prevent it or compensate ourselves for it, is more complicated than may at first appear.

I sometimes wonder whether the level of human wickedness remains rather constant, and the real (as opposed to headline) level of damage consequent upon too, and all the rest is a pass-the-parcel shuffling between citizens of risk, cost and responsibility, sponsored by an energetic sector of professional middlemen — all those insurers, locksmiths, lawyers, domestic security buff and mailshot merchants who take their cut with each pass of the parcel.

Meanwhile, for the nation's planning officers, I offer one helpful and one unhelpful thought. The helpful thought is this: Surely it is possible to design a Georgian alarm box? Painting it cream and giving it fluted sides should suffice, but some might want to add a frizzle of Wedgwood-style figures. We shall soon, I think, solve the burglar alarm problem.

But not the air-conditioning problem. Unannounced and almost unnoticed, air-conditioning is coming to Britain. More and more offices are air-conditioned, and a few homes are now introducing the novelty. Soon it will become a status symbol. The rich will find that they cannot live without it. Compared with the huge and hideous addition of a bolt-on air-conditioning box on a wall or window, that little red burglar alarm sitting under your gutter is virtually invisible. Sam Howes may not live to see it, but for a generation of assistant chief planning officers now being born, another suburban carbuncle looms.

Carrying the beacon of reason

Alan Ryan celebrates the intellectual life of the philosopher Karl Popper who is 90 today

Sir Karl Popper today celebrates his 90th birthday. He has outlived both the Nazi and the Stalinist tyrannies he wrote against in his best-known books — *The Open Society and Its Enemies* and *The Poverty of Historicism* — and his work in the philosophy of science and political theory is set to outlive its fashionable competitors. Like his fellow Austrian Friedrich von Hayek, Popper has come to symbolise for many Europeans the continued vigour of liberalism, constitutional government, a concern for human rights, a modest faith in human reason, and a passion for science as one of human reason's greatest achievements. At the end of a century of which the first eighty years were marked by world war, genocide, global ideological conflict, the threat of nuclear annihilation and the popularity of assorted irrationalities, this is no small triumph.

Karl Popper was born in Vienna. His early years were spent teaching maths and physics in a secondary school, but his energies were equally devoted to Social Democratic politics, to social work with children carried out under the aegis of the psychoanalyst Alfred Adler, and to music in a circle presided over by Schoenberg — a typically Viennese brew. In his delightful autobiography, *Unended Quest*, he spells out the ways in which that mixture of interests propelled him to the ideas for which he became famous, especially the idea that what makes science intellectually respectable is not the series of facts it accumulates, nor the technology it fosters, but the way scientists test their guesses about how the world works.

As Popper describes it, he was provoked by the merits of psychoanalysis and Marxism. Einstein's theory of relativity replaced Newton's physics not because Einstein had accumulated more facts, but because Einstein's theory could survive a very small number of tests that Newton's couldn't. Popper concluded that the crucial idea in science is not proof but disproof, not the facts that confirm our ideas but the facts that falsify them. This is the view of scientific progress epitomised in

the title of his essays, *Conjectures and Refutations*; it requires two virtues: a readiness to make bold guesses and the honesty to recognise when they are wrong.

This was the test that psychoanalysis and Marxism failed. Their adherents were forever citing events which confirmed their views; none could say plainly what events would lead them to give up their convictions. Psychoanalysis is notoriously untestable; on any simple view, Marxism proved wrong over and over again; the wrong countries launched revolutions, workers did not suffer "immiseration", the proletariat remained resolutely un-class-conscious. Marxists did not abandon Marxism, but rewrote it to fit the uncomfortable facts.

The end of the process was intellectually and politically decisive for Popper. In 1934, the Viennese left was routed and a dictatorial conservative government was installed: devout Marxists believed fascism was the "last stand of the bourgeoisie" and the prelude to their own triumph. Popper thought this quite mad. He foresaw the slide to the *Anschluss* and a Nazi takeover of Austria, and left. Although his parents were baptised as Christians, Nazi race laws counted him as Jewish, and he would certainly have been killed if he had stayed. He came to Britain, but he fastidiously declined to accept philosophy posts reserved for refugees, and no others were offered to him.

Accordingly he went to New Zealand, where he worked from 1937 to 1945: it was in Christchurch that he wrote one of the great books of the century, *The Open Society and Its Enemies*, published in 1945, defies classification. Like *The Poverty of Historicism*, which he published



Sir Karl: philosophy deals with genuine problems not verbal puzzles

12 years later, it attacked the idea that the task of social and political theory is to discover "the meaning of history". But it did much more: it savaged totalitarian ideas wherever they might be found, and caused a good deal of

offence by naming Plato as the first great totalitarian. He also denounced Marx as the follower of Hegel, and Hegel himself as a crawling toady of the Prussian absolutist state, happily borrowing Schopenhauer's description

of logic and scientific method. There he became the centre of something like an oppositional school of philosophy. Most post-war philosophers followed Wittgenstein in talking about the "bewitchments" of language and

about philosophy as a sort of therapy. Popper, like Russell, thought this belittled philosophy. Philosophy, for him, deals with genuine problems, not verbal puzzles. Its task is to explain how human reason can make sense of the world, what are the scope and limits of science, what scientific progress amounts to and how it relates to moral progress, if at all.

Unlike most philosophers, Popper is greatly admired by scientists. Sir Peter Medawar and Sir John Eccles were two of several Nobel prizewinners to sing his praises. He also made an impact on cultural studies: Ernst Gombrich's *Art and Illusion*, says its author, permeated by Popper's ideas. He even influenced politicians such as Anthony Crosland and Edward Boyle. One reason for his influence lies in the extraordinary persuasiveness of Popper's writing, but more important is the sheer boldness of his speculations.

When most Anglo-American philosophers were saying that metaphysics was best left to unsavory dead Germans such as Hegel, Popper began to argue that intellectual progress makes sense only if there are three worlds: minds, bodies and a "third world" of objective ideas, the home of the theories that individual minds explore. And he developed an evolutionary account of human knowledge, seeing it neither as filling a mental bucket with facts, nor as holding up a "mirror" to nature, but as a kind of map-making — creative, fallible, never mystically in touch with nature but constantly open to improvement.

All this attracted criticism. Some critics thought it ended in scepticism, others thought the "third world" explained nothing. Nor was Popper always patient in attending to his critics (students at the LSE joked about "The Open Society by one of its enemies"), but he lived up to his own standards. He conjectured boldly, occupied exposed positions, and greatly advanced our understanding of science, democracy and the cultural anxieties of our century.

The author is professor of politics at Princeton University.



...and moreover

CRAIG BROWN

Which books should you be packing for your holiday this year? A panel of celebrity experts has graciously allowed us to take a peek at their own choice of reading. Needless to say, it reflects their great diversity of skills and interests and their truly marvellous breadth of learning. Most readers of this column will feel humble indeed, yet at the same time strangely thankful, when confronted by these nutritious scraps from the reading lists of the illustrious.

Carole Forth, actress: I'm sorry, but I'm simply dotty about the great French novelist Marguerite Yourcenar, whose panoramic novel, *A la suite*, etc. has long been my holiday companion. I am always mesmerised by its great weight, breadth and depth, and its height, too, is quite fantastic, though not in the Penguin edition, which is a little more squat. I take all the volumes with me wherever I go, as I am something of a keep-fit fanatic. Volumes 1 to 4 act as excellent handweights to keep the arms in trim, while I tend to use volumes 5 to 10 to aid balance and poise. And when I manage to grab the time, I read them as well. I am already halfway through the title of the first volume, and hope to complete the title of the second by the end of next year. Indispensable.

Stallford Beedy, man of letters: For the bedside table, I plan to take the new John Mortimer. The bedside table has a slight wobble, and at 257 pages the

Mortimer should do the trick. Last year, I recommended taking Sebastian Faulks's first novel, but as he is no longer a prominent literary editor I regret to say that I found his recent second novel something of a disappointment. As I will be holidaying in Provence this year, I shall be taking a copy of Peter Mayle's bestseller *Tomatoes in Provence*. I have found in the past that placing a copy of it in the front window of the car is a quite excellent method of frightening off any passing locals.

Veronica North-Eastwood, fashion designer: My designs for next season are deeply influenced by my deep love of the books of George Gissing. I'm heavily into the well-worn, secondhand, heavily-stained, unshapely look. I import all my coffee stains from a marvellous little man in Palermo, and for accessories such as belts I use ancient pieces of string rescued from the lesser-known refuse dumps of the Adriatic. On the beach this year, I shall be taking the first volume of John Richardson's *Life of Picasso*, a book large enough to act as an effective wind-shield, and excellently embossed to keep out the rain. Making Picasso a major influence on my hat collection for the winter.

Sir Shortley Percival, MP: Whenever I go abroad on political and business trips, I make a point of taking a first-class Trollope, but for holidays I also try to take something to read. For sheer fun, I recommend Sir

Norman Fowler's autobiography, *Not At All Dull*, and to show that I am a real person in my own right who loves everyday working-class sports, I recommend anything on football by Jimmy Greaves. With over 600 pages, the new Jeffrey Archer is perfect for aeroplanes: you can tear each page out quite easily and with some neat folding you can make hundreds of excellent jets to keep you amused throughout those long afternoons on the beach.

Joy Greenley, women's columnist and environmental activist: Booker Prize judge: To avoid Europe's beaches, which incidentally constitute some of the most polluted beaches in Europe, and to avoid the damaging rays caused by man's destruction of the ozone layer, I will be reading this year's Booker Prize submissions in a purpose-built National Car Park (strictly no smoking in South London, constructed entirely from many of this year's Booker Prize submissions seems to be disillusion, and in particular the solitary novelist at not receiving many cash prizes. So after I have finished all my Booker reading, I will be in search of a book to cheer me up, a book that shares my sense of fun and sheer high spirits. With this in mind, I have already packed Ruth Rendell's witty *The Severed Toe* and Brian Masters' richly entertaining new study of the Milwaukee mass-murdered Jeffrey Dahmer. Sheer bliss.

Lights, action

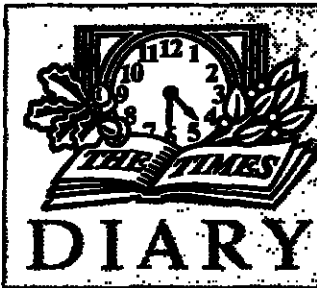
... Patten

AS JOHN PATTEN lays the foundations today for the next 25 years in education, undergraduates have been warned that there will be nothing in his white paper about student welfare. This will come as little surprise to those who remember Patten at Cambridge, where he staved off student penalty by turning to the silver screen.

Patten, known for his flamboyance as an undergraduate, supplemented his scholarship to Sidney Sussex by acting as an extra on several film sets. The aspirant politician, whose bouffant hairstyle and clean-cut looks obviously appealed to casting directors, soon discovered that bit parts in the movies earned him more than most part-time jobs. "I know that Mr Patten paid his way at university by acting as an extra on several films while at Cambridge," confirms Cliff Grantham, the minister's political adviser, but his office was yesterday not prepared to divulge the names of the films.

However, close observers of television re-runs of *Anne of a Thousand Days* and the musical *Oliver* may recognise the young Patten as a soldier in the former and a singing butcher in the latter.

Rumour had it at the time that Patten's early cinematic success had paid for a sleek sports car, but the minister — who now owns two classic Bristol 2-litre motors — has since said that as a student he drove a rather decrepit green Volkswagen. His adventures as a thespian, however, have done little to impress his opponents. Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the teaching union NASUWT, says: "He certainly seems to be acting out the prime minister's lines at the moment."



● The British Olympic swimming team could have benefited from the presence of Alison Streeter after its disappointing performance in Barcelona on Sunday.

This year Streeter, a veteran English Channel swimmer, intends to swim the Channel seven times. With costs of £1,000 a crossing, Streeter, who will be raising money for a "jumbaloo" to take sick and disabled people on holiday, is looking for sponsorship. A phonecall from Allied Dunbar temporarily raised her hopes, but it was only someone trying to sell her life insurance.

● Closet drama

ROLLING in the aisles will be comically underdressed as *Tattoo*, a comedy about domestic strife, is premiered on the Edinburgh fringe next month. It is being staged in the front room of a ground-floor garden flat in the city, with an audience capacity of eight. The production, about the travails of closet gay couple Charlie Pink and Sidney Squeeze, has been sponsored by a brewery to the tune of 1,000 bottles of beer. They will be given free to the audience, who will not have to pay to get in. They may well find themselves ducking, however. The artists will ad lib, which means some of the crockery may go flying. One

packet of smoked bacon is already scheduled to go into orbit. Dexter Augustus, who is directing the show, says: "We have all had rows. We have all listened in to our neighbours' rows. But never before have we been invited into their front room to watch them close-up." Audiences will be selected on the basis of a questionnaire to assess their suitability.

● Nanette Newman has added her tuppence-worth to the abuse heaped on pollsters since the general election. The actress, whose *Fairy Liquid* commercials were deemed "patronising" by a poll of viewers for TV Quick magazine on

Just look how many more washed-up pollsters



the grounds that she would never do the washing-up in real life, has taken umbrage. "Pollsters are not having a good year," she says. "I have to disillusion them. Since we do not have any help, I am no stranger to the kitchen sink. I do all the cooking and wash up with yes, *Fairy Liquid*." Dishwasher salesmen are already beating a path to her door.

● Gamesmanship

JEFFREY ARCHER is to join John Major in displaying solidarity for the beleaguered national

heritage secretary when the three meet at the Olympic Games in Barcelona on Thursday. Archer, who has survived more political setbacks than any contemporary politician, has chosen Lord Renton of Huntingdon, the man who first introduced him to the prime minister, to sponsor his entry to the House of Lords.

Renton, a former government minister, was MP for Huntingdonshire until he was succeeded in 1979 by Major. Archer's letters patent were issued yesterday by the College of Arms, making him Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare, and Renton will perform the introductory honours in October. Lord "Bertie" Denham, the former chief whip in the Lords, will also officiate.

Renton, who lives only a few miles from Major's Great Stukeley home, and about 20 miles from Archer, is delighted. "I introduced them before John Major made his mark. The three of us are extremely good friends," he says.

● Ross writes

ROSS PEROT is publishing the definitive book on his political philosophy, before anyone else does. It will solve the riddle of why he quit the presidential race, and will recoup a little of the money he spent on the abortive campaign. The book was almost complete when Perot made his surprise withdrawal from the election, and the last chapter will explain why he decided not to stand. Most of it is devoted to how Perot would have ended the budget deficit, a question he failed to answer during the campaign. An aide says: "Every-one has been talking about Perot not talking about the issues." The memoir will be published by Hyperion Books, a subsidiary of Walt Disney. Can the movie be far behind?



IRAQ SCORNS THE UN

For most of the Cold war, the divided United Nations Security Council was little more than a Greek chorus, protesting from the sidelines against violations of international law that it was incapable of preventing. The most significant peace dividend so far garnered from the Cold war's ending has been the assertion of the security council's authority to drive Iraq out of Kuwait. That business can be concluded only when Iraq has complied fully with the terms of resolutions 687 and 688. It has yet to do so. The UN's authority thus remains flouted.

The resolutions are not punitive. They do not require the toppling of Saddam Hussein, merely listing what is needed to restore peace and security to the region. But with Saddam still in power, nothing can be left to good will. His earlier grudging compliance has changed into outright obstruction. That is what has been at stake outside the agriculture ministry in Baghdad this month: not the documents it harboured, however relevant these may be to Iraq's illegal weapons programmes, but the enforcement of international law.

The agreement now reached with Baghdad buys the UN, and the Western members of the Gulf coalition in particular, time to decide how best to deal with Saddam's continued defiance, of which the ministry brinkmanship formed only a part. But that is about all that can be said in its favour. Saddam had ample time to remove or destroy incriminating documents. He can claim to have dictated the composition and rules of operation of the team of UN inspectors. He pours continuous scorn on the security council.

Iraq is legally bound to obey the terms of the ceasefire, on pain of renewed hostilities. The council's Western members, who alone have the capacity, must ensure compliance or see the UN's authority eroded in Iraq and elsewhere. That means action as systematic as Saddam's defiance within a firm and sustained strategy. Sanctions must be properly enforced. Iraq is bypassing the UN trade embargo to obtain telecommunications

equipment and even to re-equip its armed forces, and Saddam evidently still has access to funds despite the UN freeze on Iraqi assets abroad. The Amman-Baghdad highway is jammed with lorries carrying high-tech imports and the luxuries which shore up his support in army and party.

If Jordan will not voluntarily enforce the embargo, it must be told to admit UN border patrols or face inclusion in sanctions and the cutting of the highway. Switzerland, the main financial centre for Iraqi procurement, should be asked to seal the offices of suspect companies and to expel Saddam's half-brother, Barzan al-Takriti, a torturer and murderer, who is abusing his diplomatic immunity as Iran's envoy to the UN in Geneva. As a last resort, where there is clear evidence that illegal imports have been used to rebuild Iraq's military infrastructure, the appropriate installations should be destroyed from the air.

The UN undertook, in resolution 688, to protect ordinary Iraqis from the worst excesses of Saddam's regime. That humanitarian mission is in jeopardy. Saddam's agents are launching bomb attacks and assassinations against UN personnel in the "safe haven" in Iraqi Kurdistan. Britain and America have reminded Iraq that it is responsible for the safety of all UN personnel and should consider ways of backing this up, if necessary by sending military guards back to the north. In the southern marshes, in double violation of UN resolutions, Saddam is using aircraft grounded under the ceasefire to attack rebels and refugees. Iraq should be told that these aircraft will be forced down if necessary.

No single action is likely to bring Saddam to heel. No "peace and security in the region", which the UN has undertaken to restore, can be fully secure while he is in power. But the UN's credibility in facing lawlessness elsewhere will be directly affected by the persistence and determination with which the security council sets out to demonstrate that Saddam has miscalculated in continuing to oppose it.

LAW AND DISORDER

South Africa's police force has always been better at causing riots than at curbing them. The force could yet undermine progress to a political settlement in that country. Since February 1990 President de Klerk has amassed support and encouragement for his brave disavowal of the past and for dismantling apartheid. He is now in serious danger of losing that support unless he can bring his police under control.

He will gain nothing by repeating, as he did most recently in Maputo, that it is "absolute nonsense" to suggest that his government was not "in charge" of its army and police. But if he is in charge, what can he make of this week's disclosure by a respected pathologist who examined the bodies of 200 people who died while in police custody? Dr Jonathan Gluckman is convinced that 90 per cent of the people he examined were killed by the police. Dr Gluckman has gone public with his allegations after getting no response from direct and private approaches to Mr de Klerk in November last year and May this year.

While many of the deaths in Dr Gluckman's files date from the period of "total onslaught" against the foes of apartheid under P. W. Botha, others are since 1990 and thus under the responsibility of Mr de Klerk. The most recent was two weeks ago. It appeared to vindicate the findings of Dr Peter Waddington, a Reading university criminologist who was asked to join two Scotland Yard officers looking into the Boipatong police shootings of June 17. Dr Waddington mildly observed: "After decades of enforcing apartheid, the SAP must learn afresh how to cultivate relationships and adapt their tactics in order to achieve public acceptability."

One speech and a little encouragement from Mr de Klerk is simply not enough to turn a force that was the bludgeon of

apartheid into an impartial and efficient instrument of the new South Africa. The old police were recruited mostly from "poor whites", low in status and pay, their small numbers boosted by recruitment from Zulu and other groups operating away from their normal homelands. The police commissioner, General Johan van der Merwe, has announced a police board investigation into all aspects of training, efficiency, and command and control. The board is also looking into relations between the police and the community. Certainly the force needs drastic reform, not least in the direction of decentralisation.

The police and the army have not always worked in close co-operation in South Africa, if only because the army, staffed by white conscripts, long refused to dirty its hands with internal security. The army remains averse to police work, but that has not prevented its intelligence arm becoming ever more enmeshed in operations against the African National Congress. It is thus intolerable that Lt General C. P. van der Westhuizen, the head of military intelligence, is still in post. His name was on a telegram in 1985 ordering that a number of black activists should be "permanently removed from society". They were later killed. The authenticity of the document has not been denied and investigations are said to be in hand. But the general was not suspended.

The ANC has demanded that the security forces be put under multi-party control, and called for international monitoring of their activities. With Cyrus Vance still in the country assembling his recommendations to the UN security council, the threat of international monitoring is more than a glint in the ANC's eye. If Mr de Klerk is to avoid it, the murder must not only cease to be government policy. It must also cease to be the policy of petty officials.

RUN, RABBIT, RUN

The relationship between man and rabbit has long been a precarious balance. Rabbit eats human crops; humans eat rabbit. Rabbit fur is the main source of felt. Having been made to sound less common or garden by being called lapin by the British fur industry, it is also used for wear. The difficulty has always been to get the man/rabbit ratio right, as exemplified by the classic eco-nursery story when rabbits were introduced into Australia, and rapidly overran the continent.

There is evidence that again the relationship is tilting out of balance. Anyone who has walked in the country this summer knows from personal observation that the fields are alive with the sound of rabbits. This private opinion poll is confirmed by an action being brought against British Rail by an unnamed farmer, supported by the National Farmers' Union and the Country Landowners' Association. He alleges that BR has failed to control rabbits on its land under the Pests Act 1954, and should pay him compensation for crop damage. British Rail argues that the rabbits are everywhere, not just on its land. To wire off the national rail track would take 23,000 miles of fencing, and, to judge from all past attempts at fencing, would be instantly permeable by the burrowing varmints.

The last time that the rabbits weighed down their side of the rabbit/human see-saw was after the war, when it was estimated that there were a billion rabbits in Britain. For such a philoprogenitive species, these estimates were systematically imprecise. Then myxomatosis, a wasting and blinding viral cony disease imported from Australia, reduced the number to about a million.

Since then, by Darwinian survival of the blood-minded, many rabbits have become resistant to myxomatosis.

The virus is still active, but now it slowly kills only about two out of five rabbits. The move away from intensive pesticide farming to set-aside fallow and hedges is helping rabbits to find room for what they do best: reproducing themselves. The latest census puts the rabbit population at 30 million. The rabbit experts think it highly unlikely that it could ever again reach the level of the infestation days before myxomatosis.

Traditional rabbiting skills have been forgotten, probably for ever, by the post-myxomatosis human generation. Men with nets and ferrets, boys with catapults, harvesting stokers with sticks, and farmers' wives with pastry, no longer hold the human line in the long battle against rabbit. Rabbit has now become something found on the à la carte menus in smart restaurants rather than as the staple food for families that cannot afford chicken. The average household no longer knows that skinning a dead rabbit is as easy as pulling the clothes over the head of a child.

This is a result of convenience foods, and of many more women working outside the home. Rabbit will not again become as major a part of the English diet as it was for centuries when big houses kept their warrens as living larders — until the supermarkets started packaging sanitised frozen rabbit as rabbitburgers or snail balls. In the balance between man and rabbit, man has every advantage except fertility. He need not cheat. Next time he has to weigh down his side of the see-saw, let it be with something less poisonous than myxomatosis.

Counting the cost of library services

From Miss Joanna Richardson

Sir, I was interested to read the letter (July 21) from the Chief Executive of the British Library, Dr Brian Lang. It is good to learn that, at least for the moment, there will be no charge for a reader's pass. It goes very much against the grain to pay for admission to any library or museum, especially when you already subsidise it through your taxes.

The British Library holds its collection in trust for the nation, and especially for those who are engaged in serious research. As a biographer, and as a long-time ticket-holder, I am grateful that it exists and constantly amazed at what it contains.

However, like many other readers, I regret the marked change of atmosphere and the notable decline in standards since the days when the British Library was one Reading Room of the British Museum. The library seems to me to have lost its sense of purpose and its dignity. Readers are considered inept: I found a leaflet on my desk, telling me not to scribble in books.

Many of the ancillary staff have no particular regard for libraries or for the needs of those who work in them. They handle books with supermarket clumsiness. Their animated conversation echoes round the reading rooms.

I was told by one not long ago that "she didn't like the way I treated books". Another observed, when I asked for the *Goncourt Journal* and index volume, that "I mustn't be greedy". I need to apply for many books in the early stages of research; I do not apply for them out of *joie de vivre*.

I was glad to see, from Dr Lang's letter, that access to the library will now be based on "need to use". The British Library is, surely, the library of last resort. It is the one to which you go when others are manifestly inadequate. There are nowadays too many readers whose research, I suspect, could be equally well done in a lesser library; and there are many others who use the British Library in order to socialise.

It is always a pleasure to work at the Bibliothèque Nationale, which is well aware of its purpose and its status. The library is quiet and dignified (alas, St Pancras), the readers concentrate on their research and the staff have genuine respect for literature and scholarship.

In its Département des Manuscrits, I can discuss my work with informed enthusiasts, and once I have even brought some unpublished papers I had not asked for because the *conservateur* thought that I might like to see them.

I have found the same sympathetic interest at the Bibliothèque de l'Institut de France. I have not yet found a leaflet telling me not to scribble in books.

Yours faithfully,
JOANNA RICHARDSON,
55 Flask Walk,
Hampstead, NW3,
July 21.

From the Librarian of University College London

Sir, This and most academic libraries are very welcoming to "occasional academic readers" (Mr Chowdhary-Best's letter, July 21), despite receiving no public funds to provide such a service. Our own policy at UCL Library is to allow five free visits, or one a month in the case of academic visitors coming from a distance, and this is adequate for most "occasional academic readers".

The funding of academic libraries is based upon the funding methodology of higher education as a whole, and we receive no funds for services provided to staff or students from other institutions. We do charge for use beyond occasional use because otherwise the service to UCL staff and students (for whom we do receive funds) could not be maintained.

Mr Chowdhary-Best is not the only person in London seeking access to a major academic library; the number of people who apply to us is very great and the potential drain upon our limited resources very considerable.

No librarian likes charging a fee but those who use academic libraries should realise that if the libraries are to survive they have to be paid for one way or another.

Yours faithfully,
F. J. FRIEND,
Librarian,
University College London,
Gower Street, WC1,
July 22.

Kissing safe?

From Mr Philip Kirtlan

Sir, I note that the evidence suggests "saliva contains much less of the HIV virus than blood" (report, July 22), but the following line says "which is why it is believed that HIV cannot be transmitted by kissing".

Does this not contradict the statement that saliva samples are as good as blood samples for detecting the virus?

Yours faithfully,
P. H. KIRTLAN,
9 Baroness Court,
Manor Road,
High Barnet, Hertfordshire,
July 22.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 071-782 5046.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Welfare of Britons in foreign prisons

From the Under Secretary of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Sir, Stephen Jakobi's concern for the welfare of British nationals in foreign prisons ("Passport to prison?", *Law Times*, July 21) is admirable, and is fully shared by the government. But his argument that the government does not face its responsibilities is false. We take our responsibility towards British prisoners overseas very seriously.

The cases quoted as examples well illustrate this truth. Some of those named were convicted on straightforward criminal charges. Through our diplomatic missions in the countries concerned we give a full range of support to all British prisoners: consuls visit them regularly, help them to obtain legal advice and act as a channel of communication with their families.

In certain cases — as for Karyn Smith and Patricia Cahill (in Thailand) — we give strong diplomatic support to petitions of mercy. But our consuls cannot seek special favours for these prisoners not accorded to other people, and cannot interfere in the normal operation of the local system of justice.

Others named in the article — including Daphne Parrish and Ian Richter (both Iraq), and Roger Cooper (in Iran) — were subjected to a wholly different and completely unacceptable form of trial. They were victims of a process which ignored the normal canons of justice. Their guilt was decided in advance, and their sentences were politically motivated.

In addition to our normal consular support for these individuals, we worked closely with their families to bring about their release. We made numerous and vigorous representations on their behalf, and we encouraged other influential governments and individuals to do the same. Ultimately in each case we were successful.

It is very easy to present, as your

article does, many Britons in jails abroad as victims of a foreign system of injustice. But other countries resent such arrogant and unjustified presumption. The Foreign Office's job is to spot the flagrant miscarriages of justice, including those which are politically motivated, and then to act resolutely.

We may sympathise with other British prisoners, and we give them much support. But we cannot bring about their release, and it would be wrong for us to try to.

Yours faithfully,
MARK LENNOX-BOYD,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office,
King Charles Street, SW1,
July 22.

From the Director of Prisons Abroad

Sir, The article, "Passport to prison?", mentions several cases of British citizens imprisoned overseas most of whom have been our clients for a long time. We are the only charity which cares for their welfare and interests and we now have 674 (the highest number ever) whom we are assisting in a variety of different ways.

Britain's presidency of the European Council of Ministers gives an opportunity for two pressing issues to be pursued by the government: a reduction in the time between arrest and trial (even in European countries this can be as long as two years: 40 per cent of our clients are unconvicted); and an extension of the number of countries which will allow prisoners to transfer back to their own country to serve the remainder of their sentence near family and friends.

Yours faithfully,
KEITH BEST,
Director,
Prisoners Abroad,
82 Rosebery Avenue, EC1,
July 21.

Awaking to realities of Cornwall's troubles

From Mr Nicholas Serpell

Sir, The Cornwall described in your leader ("England's edge", July 18) and praised by the prime minister has all but ceased to exist.

In some areas, notably the old mining towns of Camborne and Redruth, unemployment is running at almost 30 per cent, amongst the highest figures in the United Kingdom. Along with the virtual obliteration of a once prosperous mining industry and a steep decline in agriculture, the Cornish are seeing what is considered an unfair restriction on the traditional industry of fishing. Young people are forced to move from the duchy to find jobs, their places being taken increasingly by retired outsiders.

Short-term, low-paid jobs are no answer to a depressed economy and many Cornish people see the tourist industry as being run by outsiders for the benefit of outsiders.

Cornish culture and countryside are in decline. Large numbers of villages are almost depopulated in winter because of second homes and holiday lets. So-called theme parks peddle a version of history which is unrecognisable to the Cornish and vast areas of the once magnificent coastline are covered in caravan sites and retirement bungalows.

If people do not awake to the realities that unique identity so praised in your leader will rapidly disappear.

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS SERPELL,
68 Falmouth Road,
Redruth, Cornwall.

From Mr R. F. Edward-Collins

Sir, That Cornwall is "the best living example of subsidiarity in action", as your leading article states, sadly con-

firms the impotence of subsidiarity. Cornwall County Council has consistently been one of the lowest-spending shire councils in England. With the business and domestic rate we raised 50 per cent of our budget.

Central government now takes out of the West Country through the uniform business rate more than it returns to the councils. In Cornwall we now raise through the poll tax only 15 per cent of our £300 million budget, with virtually every penny we spend controlled by Whitehall.

Tourism is vital to the Cornish economy, earning over £600 million a year. This year is proving disastrous, yet we cannot launch an advertising campaign without being capped. "Subsidiarity" leaves us powerless.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant.
R. F. EDWARD-COLLINS,
Lanwithan, Lostwithiel, Cornwall,
July 21.

From Mr Peter Laws

Sir, Ten years ago the European Community established its bureau for lesser-used languages, and Cornwall has had its own delegate on the United Kingdom committee of the bureau for over nine years. Cornwall is recognised as one of the six Celtic nations of Europe and the language is the fastest growing of all the Celtic languages. Dictionaries are published, Cornish is taught in schools, there are broadcasts in the language and the Welsh examinations board supervises scholastic examinations.

Your leader said: "Romantic antiquarians occasionally still try to revive it (Cornish) without conspicuous success." That is wrong.

Yours faithfully,
PETER LAWS,
(Secretary, Gorseth Kernow),
21 Lidden Road,
Penzance, Cornwall,
July 19.

RE — a Muslim view

From Mr Umar L. J. Hegedus

Sir, Lady Olga Mailand asserts (report, July 17) that religious education in schools is in crisis. This is indeed so, but not for the reasons she states.

RE is the most under-funded and least resourced subject on the school timetable. It is marginalised in the pressure to ensure delivery of national curriculum subjects. At secondary level it is most likely to be taught by a non-specialist teacher. Most primary school teachers study all aspects of RE for a maximum of 25 hours in a full four-year course.

Lady Olga also seems unable to differentiate between religious education in a wide sense, which may be taught in schools according to the Education Reform Act 1988, and religious instruction from within a faith tradition which must come from the teachings and practices of the home and family.

Plight of mentally ill

From Dr Harry Jacobs

Sir, You report (July 27) on the worsening plight of the mentally ill in London, with up to 40 per cent of the homeless in hostels being schizophrenic. There is also reference to the increase in suicides in young men. The shutting down of in-patient beds, also referred to in a letter (July 27) from the National Schizophrenia Fellowship, is noted to be steadily worsening the problem, with effects on specialist morale.

Something can be done now, and urgently, to stop the rot. That is to end immediately any further bed reductions. Then there should be a fresh, unblinkered look at what is going on, by restructuring some of the more dissentient but knowledgeable voices.

Yours sincerely,
HARRY JACOBS,
(Executive officer, Society of Clinical Psychologists),
The Coach House, Rochford,
Wormingford, Colchester,
July 27.

A cry for help on teaching English

From Lord Pym, Chairman of the English-Speaking Union

Sir, Over the last three years the attention of the world has been focused on the dramatic collapse of the Soviet empire, with all its immense implications. We in the West take our democracies, our institutions and our standard of living for granted; the countries of Eastern and central Europe are starting from scratch.

The task of rebuilding is a colossal challenge to those nations and to others. The starting point is a solid programme of investment, not only in terms of practical, economic and technical assistance, but in individual through people-to-people links.

The English-Speaking Union, which has neither received nor sought any public funds, is already playing a significant role in this exercise. It aims, through the medium of the English language, to strengthen international understanding, to bridge cultural gaps and build co-operation between peoples.

The conference that I attended in Budapest in June on "Everyday democracy", organised by the English-Speaking Union of Hungary, is a prime example of this. Over 70 individuals from 16 different countries met for three days to discuss their experiences over the last three years and their hopes for a peaceful introduction of democracy into their countries. It was all conducted in English.

The government is absolutely right, at a strategic level, to work to enlarge the European Community, but at the human level of the individual the overwhelming need is for the teaching of English. Wherever one goes in central and Eastern Europe this is the first request. At a seminar organised by the English-Speaking Union last year a professor from Moscow University said: "Teachers of English have never been so important or so wanted and so unable to satisfy the cry for help."

While increased government support has enabled the British Council to accelerate dramatically its support for English teaching in Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia, demand still far outstrips supply in all these countries. There is much, in addition, to be done in Russia and the other CIS countries. The cost of dedicating more resources to teaching English would be slight but no other investment could yield so high a return.

Yours faithfully,
FRANCIS PYM,
Chairman,
The English-Speaking Union,
Dartmouth House,
37 Charles Street, W1,
July 22.

Historic houses

From Professor Michael Marland

Sir, To become "institutionalised" would be considered by many as a "much worse fate" for historic country houses than becoming a "sterile museum", as the Marquess of Anglesey (letter, July 18) argues. The Marquess then fears that "institutional uses... have much the same effect as demolition".

There are, however, a precious few historic country houses for which the reverse is true: the Marquess does not mention those lovingly designed originally as institutions. North Westminster School Charitable Trust owns and hopes to preserve Sir Edwin Lutyens' 1901 St Peter's House, known in recent decades as "Woolverstone House" near Ipswich.

This was commissioned by Lady Berners as an "industrial school" for girls who had only one parent or were orphaned, and was run by an order of nuns. In a way remarkably like the present government's vocational education plans, the girls were taught skills to gain employment as domestic servants. Lutyens' country-house architectural vision focused on the education of children in need.

The trust hopes to secure funds to ensure that this fine example of Lutyens' mature art is preserved as the institution for which it was designed. It could be sold tomorrow to be divided into domestic flats.

The trust's work, however, is in the spirit of the Marquess's aim: to preserve the house to continue its original function — by offering intensive residential study for inner-city pupils in the history, technology, geography, and agriculture of quintessential England.

Our country's future demands our imaginative use of the past, and we must find ways of reinventing the original visions of our fine country houses.

Yours sincerely,
MICHAEL MARLAND
(Headteacher),
North Westminster Community School,
Penfold Street, NW1.

Stalking stemmed

From Mr P. G. Goodall

Sir, Many years ago I could easily remove the haunts from strawberries. I now find it difficult to do so. Am I getting weaker, or is there some other explanation?

Yours etc,
PETER GOODALL,
30 Hamlet Court,
Hamlet Gardens, W6,
July 20.

THE TIMES TUESDAY JULY 28 1992

OBITUARIES

SIR KARL PARKER

Sir Karl Parker, CBE, FBA, Keeper of the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, 1945-62, and art historian, died on July 22 aged 97. He was born on July 2, 1895.

Karl Parker was a scholar of remarkable gifts and perception, which were largely devoted to the study of Old Master drawings. His knowledge ranged from the early German school, which had engrossed his earliest enthusiasm, to the eighteenth century and the drawings of Watteau, the scientific study and classification of which formed one of his most valuable achievements.

Karl Theodore Parker was born at Bedford, the son of R. W. Parker, FRCS, and Marie Lulling. His mother, whose influence on his development was outstanding, came of a distinguished American family. He was educated at Bedford School, in Paris and at the University of Zurich, where he took his PhD with a thesis on the foreign sources for Milton's *Paradise Lost*.

After graduating at Zurich, Parker spent some years studying the history of art, his obvious vocation, in various continental centres and, returning to England, was employed from 1923 on a voluntary footing in the British Museum on the continuation of Campbell Dodgson's *Catalogue of German Woodcuts* in the department of prints and drawings. Dodgson had at once recognised in him the ideal prosecutor of this task and a congenial assistant.

In June 1926 he was appointed assistant keeper in the print room and remained there until his appointment to the keepership of the department of fine art in the Ashmolean Museum at Oxford in January 1934, in succession to (Sir) Kenneth Clark. In 1945 he was appointed keeper of the whole museum. He retired in 1962. From then until 1969 he was a trustee of the National Gallery, an appointment which pleased him greatly, and in 1972 he received an honorary doctorate from Oxford University. He was editor of the periodical *Old Master Drawings* from its founda-



tion in 1926 until 1940, when it ceased publication. Parker not only contributed many articles of his own to this quarterly, including a detailed catalogue, occupying a whole number, of the drawings by Watteau in the British Museum, but also translated and edited the numerous contributions from foreign scholars, which were published in it. His wide acquaintance among European art-historians, particularly in Germany and Switzerland, made him an ideal editor.

His first independent writings

were two small volumes on *Drawings of the Early German Schools* and on *North Italian Drawings of the Quattrocento* in a series edited by himself and A. E. Popham in 1926. These already showed the acuteness of his critical faculties and the sureness of his judgment. There followed a volume on *Alsatian Drawings of the XV and XVI Centuries* with an introduction and critical catalogue and in 1931 the substantial volume, *Drawings of Antoine Watteau*; it broke new ground in its approach to a subject which had hitherto been

treated in a distinctly amateurish fashion.

Parker made a study of all the etchings and engravings from drawings issued by Watteau's friend, Julienne, after the artist's death and brought these into relation with existing drawings, a no doubt obvious approach, but one which had never been systematically made before. From this he developed the ambitious scheme which was finally completed, in collaboration with J. Mathey, in 1958, when the second and final volume of the corpus was published.

Other fields were by no means neglected. In 1945 he produced an admirable catalogue of the Holbein drawings in the Royal Library at Windsor Castle, and in 1948 an equally valuable one of the Canaletto sketches in the same collection.

In 1938 there appeared the first volume of his *Catalogue of the Collection of Drawings in the Ashmolean Museum*, comprising the Netherlands, German, French and Spanish schools, a work of solid erudition, which would have been even more valuable had it been possible to include in it a larger number of illustrations. Though the entries in this volume amounted to more than 600, the interest and importance of its contents were overshadowed by those of the second volume, which did not appear until 1956, and was devoted to the drawings of the Italian schools and the famous series of drawings by Michelangelo and Raphael from the Lawrence collection.

The formidable task of dealing with these much discussed, and in many cases controversial, drawings was tackled by Parker with courage and discretion. The volume contained no fewer than 1,118 entries (excluding addenda) and must still rank high amongst the best and most reliable introductions to the study of Italian drawings in general.

Parker's achievement in transforming a collection, which was largely confined to the work of these two artists, Michelangelo and Raphael, into one representative of all the great periods of drawing was considerable. Between 1934 and

1955 he was able to build up the Ashmolean into one of the great European collections and the University of Oxford was indeed fortunate in the services of so devoted and discriminating a connoisseur, whose personal gifts to the collection were also considerable, including as they did such famous collectors as Henry Oppenheimer and Hugh Cobb, as well as the greater part of his own library on the history of art.

He was responsible for the creation of the new print room and for the installation of other remarkable benefactions, such as the Marshall collection of Worcester Porcelain and the Hill collection of musical instruments. The characteristic delicacy and sureness of his taste for quality still prevail in the paintings galleries of the Ashmolean.

Parker was a man of great personal charm, who was trusted and admired by his colleagues, by collectors and by the trade. In spite of the authority with which he spoke in somewhat slow and measured terms, his utterances were far from pontifical. He was apt to preface his remarks with an emphatic "I don't know", and to seek rather than impart information, for he was genuinely modest and anxious to arrive at the truth. The apparent pessimism of his outlook was to a certain extent tempered by a rather dry vein of humour, as when he would deplore the misfortune of his education, which had made him equally familiar with English, French and German and equally — so he would say — unable to express himself properly in any of those three languages. He was kind and patient and infinitely conscientious in the performance of the varied tasks which fell to the lot of the director of a great museum.

He was elected a fellow of the British Academy in 1950 and honorary fellow of Oriel in October 1962. He was appointed CBE in 1954 and knighted in 1960.

Parker married in 1928 Audrey, daughter of the late Henry Ashworth James of Hermoncourt Place. She died in 1976, and their two daughters, Lavinia and Caroline, survive them.

APPRECIATIONS

Dr Cicely Williams

THE death of Cicely Williams (obituary, July 18) brought back memories to me of a frail, thin lady of enormous spiritual strength. We were colleagues in the Malayan Medical Service interned by the Japanese in 1942. We were both victims of the notorious "Double Tenth" raid on Changi internment camp on October 10, 1943 and made prisoners of the terrible Kempe Tai Military Police.

For the last two months of my six months imprisonment I shared the same cage as Cicely along with Mrs Bloom and 15 other men of various nationalities. A toilet in the corner of the cell was our only source of water. By this time I was almost a skeleton covered with skin sores, but Cicely looked the same frail, clean person who shared her pitiful ration of boiled rice with other starving inmates.

Needless to say, when we were finally released back into Changi internment camp the finest member of our group was dear Cicely.

Dr O. E. Fisher

THE obituary of Cicely Williams depicted her dedication, medical expertise, courage and general magnificence but it left out an important ingre-

dient of her personality: she was tremendous fun. In the toughest situation, she could still see the ridiculous. Even in the Kempe Tai "cages" there were moments of uncontrolled hilarity. Later, in better times, the giggles were even worse when the pomposity and blatant vanity of "authority" were evident.

She was great at deflating gas-bags. She needed her mischievous objectivity during the years when some of the most established gas-bags in this country found her unconventional but valid ideas quite unacceptable. She had the last laugh.

All who knew her and loved her will miss her sense of humour and her wit. Cicely was a fun lady.

Mrs Freddy Bloom



John Bratby

LIKE so many, I met John Bratby (obituary, July 22) when I accepted an invitation to the splendid-sounding Cupola and Tower of the Winds in Hastings to sit for an instant portrait.

John would flatter potential sitters, culled from *Who's Who*, by telling them he wanted to capture "the individual while we still have a few" and would tempt them with the promise of one of his wife Patti's "bacon sandwiches on the side".

At the end of a frenetic four hours of homespun philosophy and feverish painting, the artist was drained and the sitter faced with the dilemma of whether or not to buy the painting.

I did not care for my portrait, but I cared a lot for John and for Patti and we became firm friends.

Theirs was a love match as well as a successful working partnership, with Patti (usually dressed in leather at John's

behest) as model and muse as well as homemaker and moral support.

Like many artists, John lived to work, but he also worked to live and, as soon as he had sold sufficient pictures, he would use the funds to set off for Venice where he and Patti liked to have the best of everything.

Gyles Brandreth, MP



Sir Percival Griffiths

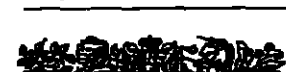
WHEN "PJ" Griffiths (obituary, July 17) was serving in the Legislative Assembly and for the National War Front in Delhi and Simla he was affectionately known to his friends as "the Bengal Tiger". With his down-to-earth realism, PJ, while stalwartly serving his constituents, was

equally concerned to serve the nation of India. As independence approached, his key advice to the Viceroy was that the transfer of power be so effected as not to lead to economic breakdown.

H. V. Hodson

Sir Percival Griffiths had three sons (one deceased) not two sons (one deceased) as stated in our obituary.

July 28 ON THIS DAY 1853



A new act reduced the cab fare to sixpence a mile, but the cabmen's main grievance appears to have been that there was no remedy against a long journey from which no return fare could be expected.

LONDON WITHOUT CABS.

Yesterday, the metropolis stood, as Sir Charles Wetherell once phrased it, in a "parenthesis of vehicularity." There was not only a dearth, but an absolute famine of locomotion, and never since the days of Charles II, when hackney-coaches were first invented, have the sight-seeing and outgoing public been reduced to such an extremity of helplessness as by the cabmen's "strike" of yesterday. For once, the magistrates who fine, and the Legislature who settle the fares of "cabby," have been defeated. One man may take a horse to water, but a hundred can't make him drink. Mr Fitzroy may ordain what "cabby" shall charge, but the whole House of Commons can't make him drive. The grievance that has so wronged the overfraught breast of "cabby" as to make him declare "a holiday" is not so much the lowering of the rate of charge per mile to 6d. instead of 8d. as the abolition of back fares, and the compromise desired is said to be that this back fare may be charged for distances of three miles beyond some fixed spot after nightfall. "Cabby" complains, and with some justice, that by the new system he swears from an ever-shifting centre to an ever-receding point of distance, and may be compelled to travel anywhere, at any time, six miles from himself. "Cabby" wants something settled, even if it be nothing more than the restoration of that indefinite fixture known during the last half century as "the place

where Hicke's Hall formerly stood." He objects to being taken from Waterloo-bridge to Dulwich at 2 o'clock in the morning for 2s. 6d., or from Tottenham-court-road to Southall for 5s. 6d. So "cabby" resolved to "play" and determined to give labour a holiday, after the fashion of the Lancashire Chartist riots in 1838. The cab proprietors gave their men notice simultaneously not to call at their stables after Tuesday, and yesterday morning the sun rose on a city without cabs. The first to feel the inconvenience was the traveller by early trains — into and out of London — who found himself three or four miles from everywhere, with a leather trunk, a hat-box, a carpet-bag, fishing-rod, umbrella, and waterproof coat to carry. As the day progressed, the desire for cabs became more urgent — people found themselves at a full stop without knowing why. There was no "going to my banker's," or "call in the city," or "take a cab to the railway." The railways suffered the greatest possible inconvenience. At every station piles of luggage waiting conveyance, and mobs of jarring bystanders advising the calling of a cab that would not come, confronted the impatient traveller. Even the aristocracy did not escape the common fate. Unless met by their "own carriage" they were compelled to trudge it on foot for long distances, and several instances of ladies of high degree in a state of comparative exhaustion were observed. At none of the railways was the inconvenience more felt than at the London and North-Western. Train after train brought an accumulation of luggage, and each hour added to the harassing of impatient passengers from all parts of the country. How long this state of things may continue will perhaps depend on the manner with which a scanty Sunday's dinner may be received by the cabman's family. It is said the fraternity are in a position to hold out till Monday.

F. S. C. NORTHROP

Filmer Stuart Cudlow Northrop, an American scholar of extraordinary diversity who was equally at home in the fields of philosophy, science, anthropology and the law, died at a nursing home in Exeter, New Hampshire, on July 21 aged 98. He was born in Janesville, Wisconsin, on November 22, 1893.

SCIENCE lay at the root of F. S. C. Northrop's philosophy. An avid student of Albert Einstein, he argued at the outset of the Cold War that it was science, rather than politics or economics, that offered the best basis for improving relations between the United States and the Soviet Union. "Do the advent of the atomic bomb and the possibility of biological warfare make the physicist and biologist, rather than the scientist and humanist, the wisest guides of policy?" he asked in his 1949 book *Ideological Differences and World Order*. "Have psychology, anthropology and history demonstrated that irrational emotions, environmental stimuli, biological heredity, or inevitable historical trends determine what will happen? Or do ideas really matter?"

To many at Yale University, where he spent nearly four decades on the faculty, Northrop's ideas mattered a great

deal. They were listened to outside the academic world as well, and he served on several international organisations devoted to resolving international ideological conflict.

He was the author or editor of 12 books, probably the most influential of which was *The Meaning of East and West*, published in 1946 and subsequently reprinted ten times and translated into three languages. It was not an easy book. In it, Northrop theorised that the conflict between East and West arose from their different values, with the former embracing the Confucian notion of "concept by intuition," while the West preferred to follow Aristotle and Plato and their "concepts by postulation." The solution to the conflict, he believed, lay in a synthesis of these values.

Northrop traced his ancestry back to Joseph Northrop, who landed in New Haven in 1638. He graduated from Beloit College in 1915 and began his graduate work at Yale before serving in the United States Army tank corps at the end of the first world war. It was two years later, after working for the YMCA in Hong Kong, that he returned to take a master's degree in economics at Yale. After that, degrees came thick and fast, with another master's degree, this time in philosophy, from Harvard in 1922. His doctorate in the philosophy of science followed at Harvard two years later, after studies in Germany and at Imperial College, London, and Trinity College, Cambridge.

In 1938 Northrop became chairman of Yale's department of philosophy, and received the university's highest honour in 1947 when he was appointed to the Sterling endowed professorship of philosophy and law, which he held until retiring in 1962. He was one of the few non-lawyers to teach at Yale's law school.

Twice married and widowed, F. S. C. Northrop is survived by two sons.



MARY WELLS

MARY Wells, singer died of cancer of the throat on July 26 aged 49. She was born Mary Esther Wells in Detroit, Michigan, on May 13, 1943.

IN A career which blossomed early and faded quickly, Mary Wells played a valuable role in establishing Motown records as the premier black pop music label. She was the company's first act to become an international star, thanks to the success of "My Guy", the song for which she is most fondly remembered.

A naturally gifted singer, with a strong, unaffected voice, Wells began singing as a youngster in church, where her uncle was a minister, and at school events, becoming featured soloist in Detroit's North-western High School choir. When she was just 17 she secured a meeting with Berry Gordy, head of the fledgling Motown label. Wells tried to sell him a song she had written, "Bye Bye Baby", but after hearing her sing it, Gordy offered her a recording contract instead, and the number became her first (minor) hit in 1960.

In an inspired piece of matchmaking, Gordy teamed up Wells with Smokey Robinson, another Motown artist who was developing his own career as lead singer with The Miracles. Robinson proved a matchless choice as composer and producer for Wells, and a purple patch of hits, written by Robinson and sung by Wells, ensued. They included "The One Who Really Loves You", "You Beat Me To The Punch" and "Two



Lovers" which were all US Top 10 hits, released in 1962.

It was "My Guy", another Robinson composition, which brought Wells her most lasting acclaim. It reached No 1 in America and was her first (and only) UK hit, peaking at No.5 in 1964. That year she was voted Top Female Singer in the *Melody Maker* readers' poll and toured Britain with The Beatles, who declared that she was the group's favourite singer.

ALLEN NEWELL

Allen Newell, a pioneer in the quest for artificial intelligence and a leader in the study of human thinking, died in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on July 19 aged 65. He was born in San Francisco on March 19, 1927.

IN THE intense and often acrimonious scientific debate over the potential of artificial intelligence to change the human condition, Allen Newell was a perennial optimist. He believed that his work would ultimately lead to profound social changes, not only relieving humans of nearly all routine or mental tasks, but also helping to make more

rational decisions in government and the judicial system, improving and customising education, and helping to enhance lives through the widespread use of more powerful computers.

As a professor at Pittsburgh's Carnegie Mellon University, where he gained a doctorate in industrial administration in 1957, Newell began working on artificial intelligence in the early 1960s when the science was in its infancy. Along with Herbert Simon, Marvin Minsky and John McCarthy, he became known as one of the four fathers of artificial intelligence and earned an international reputation for developing pro-

grammes for complex information processing. His interest in the subject sprang from work he carried out for the Rand Corporation in the 1950s, when he took part in an air force project to simulate an early warning radar station. In trying to predict how the crew members would react, Newell became fascinated with the puzzle of how people think and make decisions.

Beginning at Carnegie Mellon with a system known as GPS — the General Problem Solver — Newell constantly refined his computer software programmes in a bid to come closer to human thought processes. He was undeterred by

critics who claimed that the goal was impossible or, if possible, decidedly undesirable because of the moral implications of allowing human decisions to be made by machines. During the 1980s, in his closest approach to success, he developed "Soar", a sophisticated software system capable of solving problems in a manner very similar to human mental processes. Newell, who published ten books, was the founding president of the American Association for Artificial Intelligence and a former head of the Cognitive Science Society. Last month he was awarded the National Medal of Science.

Latest wills

Lady Elizabeth Kathleen Robson, of Forest, Guernsey, Channel Islands, wife of Vice-Admiral Sir Geoffrey Robson, former Lieutenant-Governor and Commander in Chief of Guernsey, left estate in England and Wales valued at £3,849,916.

Miss Kathleen Sheulton, of Tytherington, Macclesfield, Cheshire, left estate valued at £1,102,414 net. She left £1,000 to personal legacies, certain effects, including her 15 framed Brooklure woven silk pictures, to the Macclesfield Silk Heritage, and the residue equally between St Michael and All Angels Parish Church, Macclesfield, the Commonwealth Headquarters of the Girl Guides Association, Children's Society, Guide Dogs for the Blind Association and the RNLI.

Boat graves discovered

BY NORMAN HAMMOND
ARCHAEOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

A FLEET of wooden boats nearly 5,000 years old has been uncovered in Egypt. At least a dozen vessels were buried in massive mud-brick "graves" at Abydos, the necropolis of the early pharaohs.

The discovery was made by Dr David O'Connor of the University of Pennsylvania last autumn, during excavation around the Shunet ez-Zebib, a funerary building of the late Second Dynasty. Dr O'Connor dates the ships, which are 50ft to 60ft long, to

3000 to 2700 BC, the period of the first and second dynasties of the Old Kingdom. Each of the 12 boats found so far was surrounded by a mud brick structure of similar shape, with strongly defined prow and stern, which rose a few feet above ground. They were filled with mud bricks or sand.

Dr O'Connor believes that they are precursors of the funerary ships buried beside the Great Pyramid of Cheops. Source: K.M.T. 3 No. 1: 48-49.

Architecture

Office plan 'threatens' guildhall

BY MARCUS BINNEY, ARCHITECTURE CORRESPONDENT

THE Victorian Society is protesting at refurbishment plans for the decaying Regency Guildhall at Swansea. The society says the proposal will entirely destroy the elaborate interior of the grade two star listed building.

Swansea's planning committee last week approved a scheme by Trafalgar House, which has now been referred to the Welsh secretary.

The building, last used as a

school in 1982, is owned by West Glamorgan County Council. A Victorian Society spokesman said: "They have simply let it rot. Both councils have utterly ignored Welsh Office policy that interior features of interest should be respected and left *in situ* wherever possible."

Trafalgar House, however, said: "The interior has been occupied by tramps for seven years. There have been numerous small fires and most

of the original grandeur has been destroyed. We will incorporate some artifacts from the old building and copy some of the detail." The developers aim to refurbish the building as commercial offices.

The old Guildhall was built in 1825-29 to the designs of John Collingwood, county surveyor of Gloucestershire. The Welsh secretary has 28 days in which to decide whether to call the plan in.

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● LAW TIMES 23-25

BUSINESS TIMES

TUESDAY JULY 28 1992

BUSINESS EDITOR JOHN BELL

SPORT
26-30

Coleridge confident of market solvency

Lloyd's names owe £800m to cover losses

BY JONATHAN PRYNN

LLOYD'S of London faces a shortfall of up to £800 million in funds owed by its names to pay for the huge losses and claims that have hit the market since 1988.

However, David Coleridge, outgoing chairman, said at an extraordinary meeting yesterday that he had "no doubt" Lloyd's would pass the trade department's solvency test at the end of August.

The extraordinary meeting, the first at Lloyd's for more than a decade, was called by a group of dissident names under the banner of the EGM Initiative. It demanded the resignation of the present Council of Lloyd's. Five motions were debated, one supporting the council's attempts to reform the market, and four critical of the council and calling for more radical change.

The meeting, attended by around 2,500 names, turned as expected, into an occasion of acrimonious confrontation between working and

external names. One of the key motions concerned the £500 million levy on names announced last month to secure the market's solvency. The levy doubles the size of the central fund but is resisted by some badly hit outside names who feel market professionals should make a bigger contribution.

Proposing the motion that Lloyd's should rescind the levy and replace it with a fairer method of raising funds, John Row, co-editor of the *Chimes* League Tables of Lloyd's syndicates, said he estimated that a further 10 per cent levy, more than £40,000 per name, would be needed next year. By 1994, the cumulative effect of heavy losses could reduce the market to 6,000 names and a capacity of £4 billion. Currently, Lloyd's has more than 22,000 underwriting names and a capacity of £10 billion.

Another name, Julian Tennant, objected to names who had resigned from the market having to pay the levy.

Market professionals were trying to oblige names, "even those ruined and resigned", to bail them out, he said.

In response, Colin Murray, a council member and a former deputy chairman of Lloyd's, said the levy had been applied in strict accordance with Lloyd's rules. If the market failed to meet the regulators' solvency requirement, all years of account of all syndicates would have to be left open for ever. An appearance of lack of resolve to ensure that valid claims were met would lead to a general and destructive loss of confidence in the market.

Mr Coleridge, who confirmed that he is stepping down as chairman at the end of the year, to be replaced by David Rowland, said the levy would ensure that Lloyd's could comfortably cover the £800 million needed to pay 1988 and 1989 losses and expected claims for later years. Uncollected calls to cover the £510 million 1988 market loss total £200 million.

The £800 million figure would fall throughout the summer and early autumn as names paid up, Mr Coleridge said. However, he could not guarantee that no further levy would be needed next year.

Throughout the meeting, which lasted three and a quarter hours, Mr Coleridge and the council were bitterly criticised by external names nursing heavy losses. Mr Coleridge only once appeared irritated, when he was accused of shedding crocodile tears over names' fate.

One name who opposed the motion backing the council described its members as "negligent, indolent and impotent"; they would, he said, all have resigned if they had "an ounce of honour or a scintilla of integrity".

Claude Gurney, chairman of the EGM Initiative, delivered a fiery critical speech, described as "15 minutes of rhetoric" by Mr Coleridge. Mr Gurney said the names were there "to draw a veil over a period of mismanagement of our society — a period characterised by incompetence and bungling ineptitude."

After the meeting, Mr Gurney said he was "very satisfied" with the proceedings but saddened by the refusal of Lloyd's to send out transcripts of the debates to all 32,000 names entitled to vote in the ballots on the motions. Ballot papers are being sent out this week and must be returned by August 28.

Rowland campaign sparks controversy

BY JONATHAN PRYNN

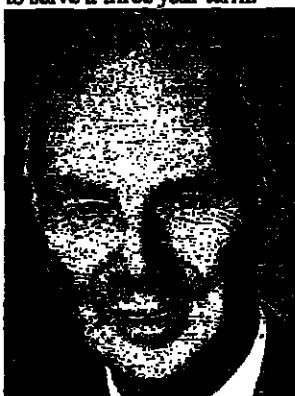
THE nomination and likely election of David Rowland, the chairman of Sedgwick Group, the insurance broker, as the next chairman of Lloyd's provoked immediate controversy at yesterday's extraordinary meeting.

Claude Gurney, chairman of the EGM Initiative, which requisitioned the meeting, said that although Mr Rowland was intelligent and might make a good chairman, it was important that a wholly independent figure be appointed to lead Lloyd's into the future. This was particularly relevant in Mr Rowland's case because he heads a firm "that broked vast amounts of LMX business", Mr Gurney said.

There was also criticism of the way that Mr Rowland's name emerged as the official nomination for election by the Council when the membership of Lloyd's as a whole will have no opportunity to express a preference.

However, Mr Rowland, 59, is likely to prove a popular choice in the market, not least because he is seen as presenting a more modern, forward looking face of Lloyd's to the outside world.

Mr Rowland has been an insurance broker since 1956



Rowland: faces critics

Hearings start on Cork Gully

BY GRAHAM SEARJEANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

PRIVATE hearings started in the council chamber of the Institute of Chartered Accountants yesterday into a complaint against Richard Stone, head of corporate finance at Coopers & Lybrand, and Michael Jordan, head of Coopers' insolvency practice, Cork Gully.

It is alleged they breached institute rules on professional conduct when they took on the administration of Polly Peck International, the group that went into administration in

1990. A rival firm complained that Coopers was breaking the rules, claiming a potential conflict of interest because Coopers had a long-standing business relationship with Asil Nadir, Polly Peck's former chairman. Mr Stone and Mr Jordan deny any wrongdoing.

The hearings, before an investigatory sub-committee of the institute's professional conduct committee, are likely to last several days. The committee's ruling will be made public, possibly early next

week. The case, against two of the most prominent accountants in Britain, raises wider issues of independence that arise from the small number of leading accountancy firms, several of which are likely to have dealt with big companies in one guise or another.

Coopers & Lybrand absorbed Cork Gully, an insolvency specialist that still operates under its own name, several years ago, making it comfortably the biggest insolvency practice in Britain.

Mob robbed Cap'n Bob in News ruse

FROM PHILIP ROBINSON IN NEW YORK

THE bankrupt *New York Daily News*, owned by the private interests of the late Robert Maxwell, is estimated to have lost \$1 million last year as two Mafia crime families allegedly stole 20,000 copies a day to sell privately. Unsold stolen copies were returned to the newspaper for a rebate.

"We've lost millions over this in extra costs and we are still losing 10,000 copies a day," a spokesman for the newspaper said yesterday. The losses were found as part of continuing investigations by the Manhattan district attorney's office into the penetration of organised crime into New York's newspaper deliveries. Inquiries began two years ago and transcripts of evidence run to 25,000 pages.

The alleged thefts were organised by the Colombo and Lucchese crime fam-

ilies and follow the patterns of similar thefts at the *New York Post*, the rival tabloid, by a third Mafia family. The *Post* has admitted it exaggerated its circulation figures by 50,000 a day.

The district attorney also alleges the investigation revealed that certain *Daily News* executives were involved in a sophisticated fraud that exaggerated its circulation in order to withhold millions of dollars of rebates from advertisers. No executive has been charged.

The newspaper's spokesman said: "We have been in contact with ABC and our circulation figures stand. If anything, these thefts mean they have been understated. We have rebated all our advertisers in full. We guaranteed a certain daily and Sunday circulation between April and September last year and failed to meet the targets. We rebated them \$4.2 million," he said.

The tabloid, taken over by Mr Maxwell 18 months ago when the Chicago-based

Tribune company paid him \$67 million to take it away, promised advertisers daily sales of 800,000, but reached only 720,000 and a Sunday circulation of 1 million, 180,000 short of the target.

The newspaper went into the protection of the US bankruptcy courts soon after Mr Maxwell died last November and has been for sale every since. It has lost more than \$6 million so far this year and is \$43 million in debt.

Conrad Black, owner of *The Daily Telegraph* and *The Sunday Telegraph* in Britain, has made a \$75 million offer. His rivals include Mortimer Zuckerman, publisher of the *US News & World Report*, who has made no formal offer, and Peter Kalikow, owner of the *New York Post*, who is currently attempting to raise funds for a bid. Any deal will need job cut deals with the unions to cut the workforce by 700. *The Daily News* may implement staff cuts if a firm bid is not made by the end of this week.



Tense hours: Fleming's Robert Banks, left, and Wellcome's Roger Gibbs in the Fleming dealing room yesterday

Wellcome hit by wave of selling

BY MARTIN WALLER

HEAVY continental selling of Wellcome shares, the subject of a £2.16 billion stock market offer, left them just 1p ahead of their issue price of £8. Yesterday was the first day of dealing after confirmation that the sale would comprise 270 million shares.

That is significantly less than the 330 million shares planned for sale earlier this summer, before turbulent stock markets and disappointing investor interest cast a shadow over the sale.

Roger Gibbs, chairman of the Wellcome Trust, the charitable foundation that has reduced its stake in the pharmaceutical company to 42 per cent as a result of the offer, denied disappointment. "We're absolutely delighted," he said. "To raise well over £2 billion in these markets is quite an achievement."

The offer attracted applications for 360 million shares, but the need to ensure a stable after-market meant the amount sold was cut. To ensure stabilisation, an unspecified number of shares over and above the 270 million can be bought back on behalf of the trust until August 26.

Robert Fleming, the global coordinator to the issue, bought stock when sellers appeared yesterday afternoon. Fifteen million Wellcome shares changed hands through the City's Seaq system, and there was further heavy dealing in New York. Most selling is thought to have come from German institutions, which had taken a large chunk of the stock offered on the Continent.

The public offer to British retail investors saw limited take-up, with shares worth £115 million allocated, against £180 million originally on offer.

Wellcome shares, suspended at Friday's closing price of 826p before dealing started in the new stock, opened at 827p before dropping.

Mr Gibbs said the trust's income in the next financial year would be £220 million, double that of the current year. "That is tremendous news for medical research," he said.

The cost of the share issue could reach £150 million, half of it accounted for by underwriting and selling fees to bankers and brokers.

Shares slide on fear of CBI forecast and building gloom

BY DEREK HARRIS AND COLIN NARBROUGH

BLEAK trading forecasts from the building industry and more gloomy City warnings about the prospects for recovery put the pound under renewed pressure and pushed share prices lower.

Market sentiment began the week depressed by a leak that today's Confederation of British Industry quarterly survey of industrial trends would show a sharp fall in manufacturers' confidence after encouraging signs of gradual upturn since the spring.

The Building Employers' Confederation, whose leaders put their recession-hit industry's plight to the prime minister last week, yesterday said that there was still no prospect of an upturn in their markets before next year. At least another 40,000 building sector jobs are likely to go before the year end, which would bring total job losses in the industry since the recession began to more than 300,000, a fifth of the labour force.

The grim outlook for London and the South East was highlighted yesterday by David Kern, chief economist to National Westminster Bank, who sees little prospect for early recovery from the

longest recession on record. His latest assessment of the regional economy predicts that it will contract 1.1 per cent this year, against a 0.3 per cent national decline before returning to modest growth next year.

Over the next year, Mr Kern expects unemployment in the South East, traditional powerhouse of the British economy, to climb by a 18 per cent to peak next summer just below a million. Since the recession began, unemployment in the region has soared 144 per cent, twice the national rise.

Salomon Brothers, the securities house, has cut its forecast for British growth this year from zero to a fall of 0.8 per cent. Next year, Salomon expects 0.7 per cent growth, but forecasts the weak recovery leaving the gross domestic product at the end of 1994 still below its pre-recession peak.

As an immediate measure to head off building's problems, the employers want a retention of the house buying stamp duty holiday for homes costing up to £80,000. The stamp duty holiday is due to end next month. Another focus for the builders is their fear of even more pain to come as

public spending is squeezed by Whitehall. Industry leaders are disturbed that the squeeze could mean the Jubilee underground line extension into London's Docklands will be shelved and cash for housing associations extensively trimmed, intensifying the housebuilding sector's problems.

Sir Brian Hill, president of the Building Employers' Confederation, said: "We are apprehensive about further cuts in public expenditure affecting our industry because things will then get worse and we will see long-term damage to building's capacity to lead the recovery when it comes."

The pound climbed above DM2.85 during the day, boosted by buy orders from the Middle East, but softened by the official 4pm London close to DM2.8452, nearly half a penny lower against a generally stronger mark. But sterling advanced more than 2 cents to \$1.9192, ending 0.3 up on its trade-weighted index. The FT-SE 100 closed 29.2 down at 2,348.0 amid concern for the economy and falling prices overseas.

Market report, page 18

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TODAY IN BUSINESS

SINGLE SLUMP



A weakening German economy is threatening to make recession the country's latest export, says Wolfgang Münchau. Page 19

JAPAN CUT

A half point cut in the Japanese discount rate failed to halt the slide in Tokyo. Page 17

STICKY RESULT



Weak demand for its honey products has hit profits at Merrydown Cider Tempus, page 18

MOSAIC MAN

Greg Hutchings is chairman of Mosaic Investments, after the removal of Brian Disbury. Page 16

LAW TIMES



Free speech is the best response to racial hatred, says David Pannick QC. Page 23

US dollar 1.9192 (+0.0215)
German mark 2.8452 (-0.0042)
Exchange index 92.3 (+0.3)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 1767.0 (-22.1)
FT-SE 100 2348.0 (-29.2)
New York Dow Jones 3293.01 (+7.30)*
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 15373.34 (-124.45)

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base: 10%
3-month interbank: 10 1/4-10 1/2%
3-month eligible bills: 9 1/4-9 1/2%
US Prime Rate: 8%
Federal Funds: 5 1/4%
3-month Treasury Bill: 3.18-3.17%
30-year bonds: 105 1/2-105 3/4

CURRENCIES

London: New York
£ \$1.9184 £ \$1.9170
£ DM2.8420 £ DM2.8433
£ Sfr2.5162 £ Sfr2.5134
£ FF6.1533 £ FF6.0985
£ Yen127.72 £ Yen127.70
£ Index 60.5 £ Index 60.5
ECU £0.715884 SDR £0.75575
£ ECU1.368874 £ SDR1.326771
London Forex market close

GOLD

London Fixing: AM \$358.00 PM \$358.40
Cocoa \$258.10-358.60
E 1185.80-187.30
New York: COMEX \$358.55-359.05

NORTH SEA OIL

Brant (Aug) \$20.60/bbl (\$20.75)

RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 139.3 June (1987=100)
* Denotes midday trading price

Hutchings in Mosaic chair as boss goes

By MICHAEL TATE, CITY EDITOR

GREG Hutchings, chief executive of Tomkins, the industrial conglomerate, has taken the chair at Mosaic Investments, following the sudden removal of Brian Disbury at a board meeting last Friday.

News of Mr Disbury's ousting coincided with details of a dip in pre-tax profits in the year ended last April, from £7.56 million to £4.24 million.

Mr Hutchings, who becomes non-executive chairman, described the removal of Mr Disbury as "one of three tough decisions" implemented

in recent weeks. The others were the £10.4 million sale of the bulk of the engineering business, completed earlier this month, and the decision to sell or close the loss-making Hedges Wright operations.

Compensation terms are still being discussed with Mr Disbury, who was on a three-year rolling contract, and was paid a salary of £130,000 last year.

Mr Disbury appears to have paid the price of the group's lack of success, and in particular of the ill-starred Hedges Wright acquisition, where underlying losses have turned out to be far worse than thought.

"When we got in there we found more problems than we had expected," said Leon Angrave, group managing director. "We are considering our position with regard to the reporting accountants at the 'due diligence' stage."

Mr Disbury had been chairman since 1987 when, with Mr Hutchings and David Williams, he took management control at what was then known as Press Tools, and transformed it into an acquisitions vehicle. Mr Williams departed in April last year.

Mr Hutchings said yesterday that the board had felt "for some months" that a change in leadership was necessary, but that the need to strengthen the balance sheet was paramount. This was achieved with the sale of the engineering business, which has wiped out debt that represented 130 per cent of shareholders' funds at the end of April.

Mr Hutchings, who still speaks for almost 10 per cent of the Mosaic equity, will look for a permanent non-executive chairman. Day-to-day running of the business will be in the hands of Mr Angrave, formerly the finance director.

The Mosaic board is trimming the final dividend from 5.75p to 5.5p a share, a move that leaves the total for the year unchanged at 9.25p. The payment is 1.7 times covered by earnings of 16.26p a share, compared with 32.39p last time, although this is before a £1.85 million extraordinary item representing the Hedges Wright disaster.

The Hedges Wright disaster left the marketing services division with an operating profit of just £341,000 against £3.07 million in the previous year.

Mr Hutchings described the overall results as "credible" given the conditions, but said that he saw no sign of economic recovery, and that results for the first months of the current year were "mixed".

Tempus, page 18



Time for reflecting: Greg Hutchings fills the gap as profits slide to £4.24 million

Property investment dents Nu-Swift profit

By PHILIP PANGALOS

A FALL in interest receivable after an investment in commercial property was largely responsible for a 37.8 per cent drop in full-year profits at Nu-Swift, the fire extinguisher and office services group.

The company, whose shares were demoted to the USM last year because less than 25 per cent of its share capital was in public hands, saw pre-tax profits drop to £20.2 million in the year to end-December, against £32.6 million previously. Tony Murray, the chairman, holds 62 per cent, while Michael Ashcroft's ADT has a 21.4 per cent stake.

Nu-Swift has been taking advantage of its strong cash position after the £184 million sale in 1990 of Compagnie Centrale Sidi, the French fire protection business, and has been diversifying. The group has invested £49 million in

property, enabling it to acquire a portfolio totalling £127 million.

But falling interest rates and the property investment programme reduced net interest receivable from £13.3 million in 1990 to £5.2 million in 1991. The company's investments in London Securities and Clarke, Nickolls & Coombs performed badly in 1991 and the group's share of their losses amounted to £3.5 million.

Recession in Britain and America was blamed for a fall in group turnover to £326 million (£342 million). Earnings fell to 34.74p a share, down from 45.36p a share last time. An unchanged final dividend of 10p a share made an improved total of 20p for the year, against 18p last time. The shares added 10p to 393p.

BAe seeks deal to cut losses in satellites

By DEREK HARRIS

BRITISH Aerospace (BAe) is in talks with Deutsche Aerospace (Dasa) in a fresh attempt to solve the difficulties of its loss-making space systems subsidiary at Stevenage in Hertfordshire.

The German group, which is buying a controlling interest in Fokker, the Dutch aerospace company, said that it was talking to BAe about acquiring the company's space activities.

BAe would not confirm this and said discussions were being held with several parties. The aim was to create a joint venture or merger for its space systems. The BAe subsidiary makes civilian and military satellites. It was previously reported that those in discussions with BAe included Matra Marconi Space, its Anglo-French rival. Last month, BAe announced job cuts in satellite manufacturing at Stevenage. Then it was expected about 640 jobs would go as capacity was halved but this figure has been cut to 500. The company blamed the loss of a big order to an American rival and an urgent need to reduce costs.

Wembley disposes of film distributor

WEMBLEY, the international leisure group, has sold its Guild Entertainment film distribution arm to Chargeurs of France for a maximum of £24.5 million.

The consideration is just ahead of the £23.8 million Wembley paid for Guild in 1989, in a deal that was staggered over three years. That includes a £4.5 million final payment to Guild's directors due this year.

Chargeurs is paying £19 million in cash; the balance of up to £5.5 million depends on the company's profits in the year to December 31. Further payments will be triggered if Guild's pre-tax profits exceed £2.5 million. Last year, it made £1.9 million. Wembley will receive the full £24.5 million only if Guild's profits reach £4 million.

In April, Wembley said Guild had got off to an "excellent start" in the current year, helped by record sales of the Terminator 2 video. More recently, Guild handled the distribution of *Basic Instinct* and *The Lover*, a French film.

Wembley's April announcement of an £8.4 million loss in 1991 came four months after the company launched a £37 million rights issue to reduce debt. After the issue, net debt fell to £115 million. The proceeds of the Guild disposal will reduce debt further.

Sir Brian Wolfson, Wembley's chairman, said: "The sale of Guild is in line with our commitment, made earlier this year, to continue with the disposal of non-core businesses and assets, enabling Wembley to reduce its level of debt and focus on its core business segments."

Bullough holds payout as profits feel the chill

BULLOUGH, the group that supplies refrigeration equipment to supermarkets and furniture and floorings to offices, found the going tough in Britain and France in the six months to end-April. Derrick Battle, chairman, said the recession has been deeper and lasted longer than was expected and that the euphoria that greeted the general election result lasted only one week.

Pre-tax profits fell from £7.18 million to £5.89 million on £132.7 million turnover (£141.5 million). The interim dividend is held at 1.75p and there is every intention of holding the final, which would make an unchanged year's total of 6.05p. Supermarket chains had been slow to place orders for new equipment. "Profit for 1992 is now expected to be less than the 1991," Mr Battle says. The shares fell 20p to 115p. Tempus, page 18

Excilibur cuts dividend

EXCILIBUR Group has cut its final dividend to 0.6p a share (1.4p), giving a reduced total of 1p for the year (1.8p), after a 73 per cent slump in full-year profits. The company, whose activities range from jewellery to merchandising and engineering, saw pre-tax profits slide to £1.11 million in the year to end-April (£4.14 million). Turnover was £65.1 million (£60.7 million), aided by first-time contributions from past acquisitions. Earnings were 1.3p a share (6.2p). The shares lost 5p to 16p.

Maple Leaf buys pubs

MAPLE Leaf Inns, which was formed as a joint venture between Pubmaster, the Brent Walker subsidiary, and Labatt, the Canadian brewer, has bought its first pub, a parcel of 18 in the North West, from Bass. No price is being given, and the venture said talks were going on with other possible sellers. Further purchases were expected before the November deadline for the government-imposed shake-up of the brewing industry. The intention is to acquire an estate of 1,000 pubs eventually.

New shops help Greggs

GREGGS, the Newcastle upon Tyne bakery group, raised profits 2 per cent to £2.29 million pre-tax in the six months to June 13. The opening of new shops helped sales rise 4 per cent to £45.2 million. The interim dividend is raised 5.3 pence to 5p a share out of earnings unchanged at 13.4p a share. The group says that the second half is not showing any signs of an upturn in the economy and results are so far level with last year. The shares were unchanged at 455p yesterday.

RPS returns to black

BETTER margins and reorganisation helped RPS Group return to the black at the interim stage. The USM-quoted environmental consultancy reports pre-tax profits ahead 17.5 per cent to £355,000 in the six months to end-June (£302,000). The company had incurred a full-year loss of £493,000 in 1991. A reduced interim dividend of 1p a share is recommended (1.4p). The directors expect an increase in total dividend for the full year.

TT confirms bid terms

TT Group, the industrial conglomerate, confirmed the terms of its £11.8 million agreed bid for Magnetics Materials Group, launched late on Friday. TT, run by John Newman, is offering three new shares for every ten MMG shares, valuing each MMG share at 54p. There is a partial cash alternative. TT already owns about 40 per cent of its target, the legacy of an unsuccessful bid made in April 1991. MMG shares rose 7p to 61p and TT shares slipped 2p to 213p.

Heritage trims losses

HERITAGE, the USM-quoted housewares importer and distributor, has trimmed pre-tax losses to £177,000 in the year to end-April (£381,000 loss). The company improved margins and market share. Turnover was £11 million (£16.5 million). The company said turnover was up 10 per cent in the first few months of the new financial year. Overheads had been reduced and margins maintained. The loss per share was 3.29p (7.08p loss). Again, there is no dividend.

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Cut in Japanese discount rate fails to satisfy Nikkei

FROM JOANNA PITMAN
IN TOKYO

THE Bank of Japan announced a half-point cut in the official discount rate yesterday, the fifth consecutive reduction, taking Japan's benchmark interest rate to 3.25 per cent. Despite the element of surprise, the Tokyo stock market was not impressed and, following a 400-point rally in the morning, the Nikkei 225 average plummeted during the afternoon to close down 124.45 points at 15,373.34.

Most analysts greeted the rate cut with jaded cynicism, claiming that only a full percentage point reduction would make any real difference to the faltering economy. "Unfortunately this cut in rates is unlikely to remove the fundamental imbalances in the economy that have contributed to the current malaise, in particular over investment by the manufacturing sector and asset deflation," said Paul Summerville, economist at Jardine Fleming Securities in Tokyo.

Takeshi Nagano, president of the powerful Nikkeiren (the federation of employers' associations), said that the central bank should lower the key rate further in order to have any real effect on both the economy and on repairing market sentiment.

Others were more sanguine. "It is difficult to see things getting any worse," said one Japanese economist, who believes that the economy must be nearing its lowest point.

Two months ago Japan's financial community was to be heard blaming the listless nature of the stock market on the inertia of the government and the bureaucracy and their perceived reluctance to take steps to bolster the faltering economy.

In the last few days, however, there have been three clear statements of intent to remedy the situation from the three institutions able to influence the economy. Firstly, Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa convened an unusual emergency meeting with key members of his ruling Liberal



Trying to please: Bank chief Mieno announces the cut

Democratic party cabinet on Friday evening, during which he vowed to go ahead with plans to implement a supplementary budget, worth more than ¥6 trillion (\$24.75 billion) in the autumn.

The LDP's plans for economic stimulus have been both unclear and delayed for some months, and many analysts are beginning to believe that once introduced, the measures may not translate into an immediate effect on the market until the economic slowdown is turned around. Many economists are adjusting their forecasts for an economic pick-up from the fourth quarter of this year to the first quarter of next year. Secondly, Yasushi

Mieno, Bank of Japan governor, offered his support yesterday with the rate cut, and thirdly, the ministry of finance was reported to be going ahead with a plan to buy government bonds, with the intention of pushing bond yields down to increase the attractions of stocks to both institutional and individual investors.

Having made ¥400 billion worth of investments in 10- and 20-year government bonds on Friday, the ministry was reported to be aiming to push the yield on the benchmark government bond down from 5.5 per cent to 5.2 per cent with further purchases yesterday.

SIEMENS

Information for Siemens Shareholders

Surge in infrastructure projects

Interim report for the first nine months (1 October 1991 to 30 June 1992) of the 1992 fiscal year: Siemens again recorded mixed progress in the third quarter. While demand from German and international customers for standard products remained weak, the upward trend in the major systems business continued. During the first nine months, total new orders grew 3% worldwide and sales rose 8%. Net income after taxes increased 8% to DM1.311 billion.

Orders

Siemens booked new orders worth DM63.1 billion in the nine-month period. This was 3% higher than the DM61.3 billion recorded a year earlier. While international orders declined 4% to DM32.8 billion (1991: DM34.1 billion), German orders rose 11% to DM30.3 billion (1991: DM27.2 billion). This was primarily due to the high level of new orders for major systems. The largest growth was contributed by the Transportation Systems and Public Communication Networks Groups that are working on numerous projects to modernize rail and telecommunications in east Germany and other regions throughout the world. Automotive Systems grew strongly and benefited from the increasing use of electronics in automobiles. The Automation Group, although affected by

weak industrial demand for standard products, reported higher order volume with a major contract to equip 30 freight centers for the parcels service of Deutsche Bundespost. Operating groups with below-average growth include Semiconductors, Passive Components & Electron Tubes, Private Communication Systems and Siemens Nixdorf (SNI). The last two groups named are suffering a fall in orders, particularly in their international business.

DM billion	1/10/90 to 30/6/91	1/10/91 to 30/6/92	Change
Orders	61.3	63.1	+ 3%
German business	27.2	30.3	+ 11%
International business	34.1	32.8	- 4%

Sales

Worldwide sales rose 8% to DM55.0 billion in the period under review (1991: DM51.0 billion). As with orders, sales were stronger in Germany, rising 14% to DM25.9 billion (1991: DM22.8 billion), although international sales also advanced, by 3% to DM29.1 billion (1991: DM28.2 billion). Exports benefited from the high volume of orders received last year.

DM billion	1/10/90 to 30/6/91	1/10/91 to 30/6/92	Change
Sales	51.0	55.0	+ 8%
German business	22.8	25.9	+ 14%
International business	28.2	29.1	+ 3%

Employees

The number of employees on 30 June 1992 was about 415,000. Owing to initial consolidation of new companies, the work force has increased by 13,000 since the end of the 1991 fiscal year (30 September 1991). In some areas the work force is being reduced to compensate for insufficient orders and changes in the company's infrastructure. The underlying figure, adjusted for the effects of initial consolidations, shows that employee numbers fell by nearly 7,000 since the start of the fiscal year. Personnel costs rose 9% to DM24.9 billion (1991: DM22.9 billion).

'000s	30/9/91	30/6/92	Change
Employees	402	415	+ 3%
German operations	243	258	+ 6%
International operations	159	157	- 1%

DM billion	1/10/90 to 30/6/91	1/10/91 to 30/6/92	Change
Personnel costs	22.9	24.9	+ 9%

Capital spending and net income

Siemens' worldwide capital spending came to DM6.2 billion (1991: DM3.6 billion) in the period under review. This strong rise was due primarily to higher equity investments, in particular the raised stake in SNI, the purchase of the industrial controls activities of Texas Instruments, Inc., of Dallas, Texas, and the purchase of the Crouse-Hinds division, a low-voltage switchgear and controller business, from Cooper Industries, Inc., of Houston, Texas. More

capital was also spent on fixed assets. Net income after taxes increased 8% to DM1.311 billion (1991: DM1.214 billion).

DM billion	1/10/90 to 30/6/91	1/10/91 to 30/6/92	Change
Capital expenditure and investments	3.6	6.2	+ 73%
Net income after taxes	1.214	1.311	+ 8%

unaudited accounts

Siemens AG, Berlin and Munich

Investors become selective

New York — Shares were mixed in morning trade as selective buying became the most attractive strategy in a climate of confusion over eroding foreign markets, a weak American economy and uneven corporate results.

The Dow Jones industrial average was about 13 points higher at 3,299. In the broad market, losers and gainers were evenly matched on volume of 20 million shares.

Frankfurt — German shares put on a spurt in the last hour of trading and the 30-share DAX ended at the day's high of 1,618.09 points, 7.67 up on Friday.

Sydney — The market closed around its low for the day after Tokyo shares failed to respond to an easing of monetary policy. After being seven points up in morning trade, the all-ordinaries index closed 3.3 points down at 1606.3.

Hong Kong — Share prices were easier at midday but above the day's lows after bargain hunters trimmed heavy losses sustained after the opening, brokers said. The Hang Seng index was down 50.17 points to 5,722.59 at the midday close.

Singapore — Share prices retreated at the close on profit-taking after rising sharply in early trading. The 30-share Straits Times index rose 21.03 points or 1.5 per cent to close at 1,422.34.

27 Jul	28 Jul	27 Jul	28 Jul	27 Jul	28 Jul
change	close	change	close	change	close
Anglo Group Sp (210)	203	Anglo Group Sp (210)	203	Anglo Group Sp (210)	203
Brent Walker Vix	3	Brent Walker Vix	3	Brent Walker Vix	3
British Air-tech (425)	425	British Air-tech (425)	425	British Air-tech (425)	425
Country Casuals Sp (130)	135	Country Casuals Sp (130)	135	Country Casuals Sp (130)	135
Dwyer A	19	Dwyer A	19	Dwyer A	19
EFM Japan Trust (100)	91	EFM Japan Trust (100)	91	EFM Japan Trust (100)	91
EFM Japan Trust Warrants	35	EFM Japan Trust Warrants	35	EFM Japan Trust Warrants	35
Euro Smaller Cos (500)	473	Euro Smaller Cos (500)	473	Euro Smaller Cos (500)	473
Flintshire Smir Co 0% Prd	146	Flintshire Smir Co 0% Prd	146	Flintshire Smir Co 0% Prd	146
HSBC HK10 (351)	343	HSBC HK10 (351)	343	HSBC HK10 (351)	343
HSBC Eurotrust Ord 63	63	HSBC Eurotrust Ord 63	63	HSBC Eurotrust Ord 63	63
do Units	29	do Units	29	do Units	29
do Zero Prd	29	do Zero Prd	29	do Zero Prd	29
Kerwood App (100)	283	Kerwood App (100)	283	Kerwood App (100)	283
Kiworth Endowment Pol	103	Kiworth Endowment Pol	103	Kiworth Endowment Pol	103
Latin Amer Inc/As (100)	110	Latin Amer Inc/As (100)	110	Latin Amer Inc/As (100)	110
M & G Recovery Inc	32	M & G Recovery Inc	32	M & G Recovery Inc	32
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do Inv Gnd Uts	47	do Inv Gnd Uts	47	do Inv Gnd Uts	47
M & G Recovery Pctg Uts	50	M & G Recovery Pctg Uts	50	M & G Recovery Pctg Uts	50
MFI Furniture (115)	117	MFI Furniture (115)	117	MFI Furniture (115)	117
Multitrust Warrants	11	Multitrust Warrants	11	Multitrust Warrants	11

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Lloyd's needs cash not more angst

There was much bitterness at yesterday's extraordinary meeting of Lloyd's over what names regard as lack of democracy, severe personal hardship and alleged sharp practice in the handling of external members by market insiders. The egm will not be remembered for this outpouring of angst. The meeting did, however, underline time and again that Lloyd's is an institution facing severe financial problems which override all others. The structure of the market must be reformed along the lines suggested by the Rowland Task Force and the Morse report. The governance and administration too must change according to the best proposals on offer from Rowland, Morse and Sir David Walker. Above all, lip service to the idea of primacy for names must be transformed into action. But the scope and pace of this change must be driven by the need to secure the financial underpinnings of the market.

David Coleridge, Lloyd's chairman, revealed that on a worst case analysis \$800 million is needed to meet the regulatory and funding needs of names. Independent analysts say that the current levy to raise \$500 million from names is merely the start of a process that would require perhaps twice that amount next year. If vocal support is any guide, yesterday's meeting may well have given strong ballot box support to a motion rescinding the new levy. The ruling council has by-law authority to proceed and will almost certainly do so whatever the outcome of the voting. But next year?

Outside capital must be found. It will not be easy with 150 syndicates operating open years and the wider Lloyd's community offering only £50 million by way of the proposed whip-round for distressed names. If the continued exodus of distressed names cannot be halted, corporate cash must be attracted on a basis that will pass muster in the commercial world outside Lloyd's. All else, and yesterday's meeting too, is a sideshow.

Aerospace agony

John Cahill's appointment to the chair at British Aerospace was a signal of intentions. The former BTR chief executive is schooled in focusing on strong market positions and making assets sweat rather than engaging in grand industrial projects or alliances. Problem areas were bound to be reviewed unceremoniously. The outcome, through little fault of Mr Cahill, may prove a classic example of the conflict between short-term financial imperatives and long-term national priority.

Both issues should have been sorted out years ago, but BAE suffered management paralysis and uncertainty at the crucial time. Its emergency rights issue, which spelled the end of Sir Roland Smith's reign, was plainly not enough to secure the future of the group in all its ambitious glory. Sir Graham Day, the interim chairman, had to try to restore City confidence by capping the group's cash-raising ambitions, declaring that it would live within its means. That immediately made BAE a weak player in the rationalisation process being forced on the international aerospace industry.

Despite having outstanding products, BAE is in severe danger of being left standing in the game of musical chairs that is bringing continental and transatlantic competitors in the regional airline business into new alliances, including yesterday's agreement for the Daimler Benz group to take control at Fokker. In space satellites, BAE's apparent strength has also been undermined by its enforced financial concerns, creating the danger that BAE may end up as a junior partner in an alliance with a rival able to take a longer strategic view. As Michael Heseltine might ponder, this would not happen in France or Germany.

The business cycles of ERM economies are converging. So signs of recession in Germany portend trouble, says Wolfgang Münchau

Much effort has gone into explaining why high German interest rates represent a floor in Europe's exchange-rate mechanism. The point frequently missed, however, is that high German rates could do much worse damage than merely keep other people's interest rates high. They could pull Germany into a full-blown recession, and with it the other countries in the ERM, by creating a sudden fall in German demand for imported goods.

One could even argue that the convergence of ERM countries' business cycles ensures that recession, like inflation, is an exportable commodity from the point of view of the system's economic strength. This scenario implies that the British recession could last longer than would be warranted even allowing for the unusually tight monetary conditions, and that there might be no recovery in Britain until there is recovery in Europe.

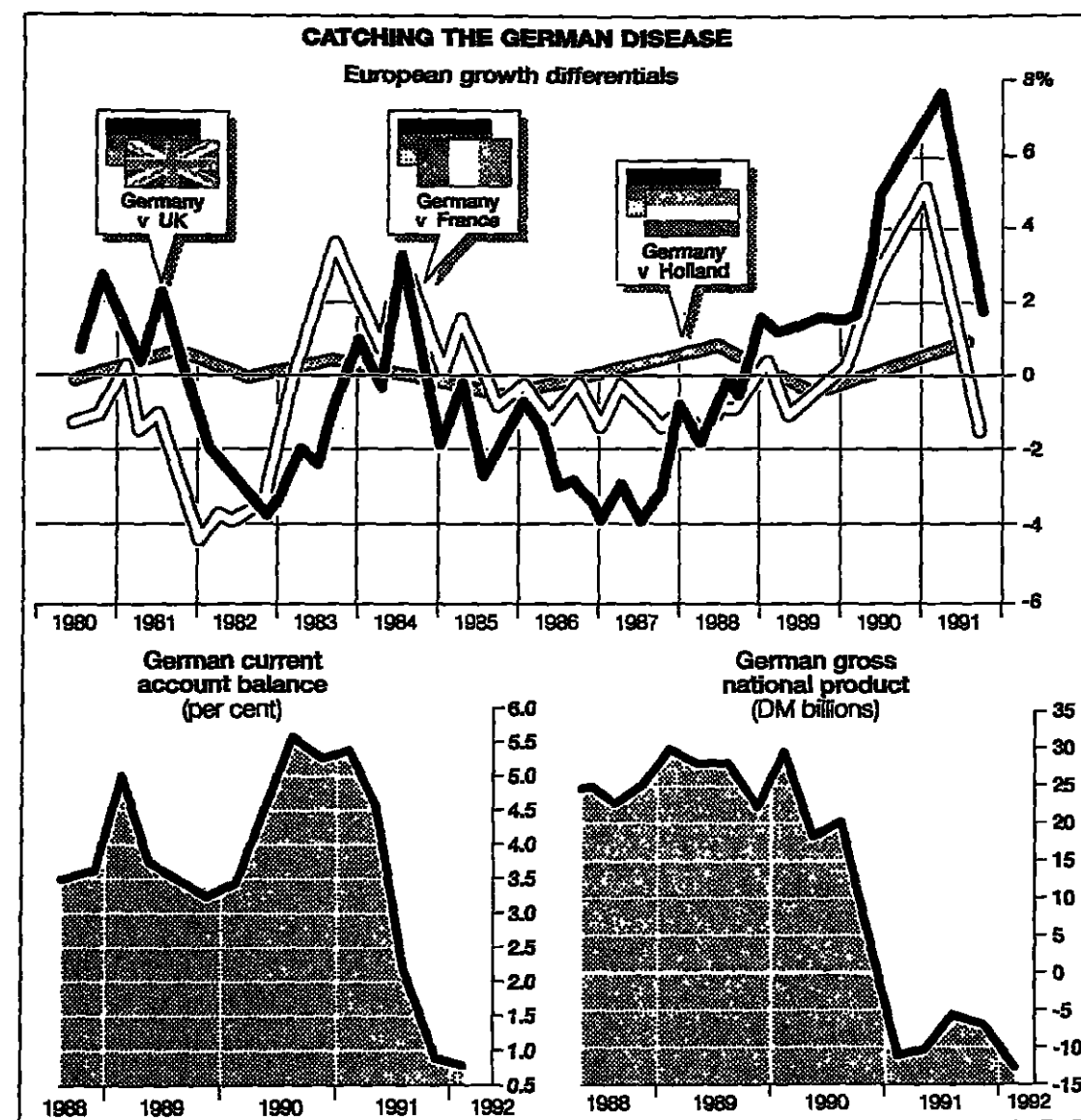
To assess the "double whammy" view of German interest rates, one needs to investigate the direct domestic effects of high rates in Germany and the impact of German economic growth on that of other European countries.

Over the past few decades, continental Europe's economies have converged in several areas, notably inflation, which came down, and unemployment, which went up. More interestingly, there has been convergence in economic growth rates. Such convergence is needed anyway, if Europe is to adopt a single currency and a single monetary policy without creating undue disturbances.

Holland, a "robust" and unquestionably loyal ERM member that trades extensively with Germany, shared Germany's general growth pattern throughout the 1980s. The effect on Holland of the economic shock of German unification seems to have been similar to that on Germany itself, both for better and for worse.

France, by contrast, took a few years to establish credibility within the ERM after a series of initial realignments. But from the mid-1980s until 1990, the year of German unification, the French economy showed growth performance similar to that of Holland. France, however, did not benefit nearly as much from the demand generated by unification.

I suspect that the differentials with France will narrow again in the future and that German unification, if only statistically, will be relegated to



a mere blip on a piece of paper. The comparison with British economic growth rates shows no stable pattern, as one would expect. The non-conformity of the British economy is indicated by sharp oscillation of the curve. Britain was not an ERM member for most of the period under consideration.

If Britain does not devalue, the probability must be that Britain's economic growth pattern will fall into line with those of Germany and the rest, so that the oscillating graph will flatten during the 1990s. What would look harmless and stable on paper would mean nothing other than continuing recession or a recovery that felt little different.

Convergence of business cycles is partly connected with the seemingly ever-increasing proportion of trade within the EC. This proportion will grow further once remaining trade barriers — especially physical barriers, such as border controls, and red-tape barriers, such as different VAT procedures — are removed. The main question is, therefore, will Germany fall into recession, and when will the all-important European upturn happen? The news coming

from Germany is not good. The difficulty is that it is not exactly bad, either. It is potentially bad, and there is much uncertainty.

First, there is too little certainty about the present state of the German economy. Unification and recent changes in weather patterns (no joke) have made German growth statistics almost useless. First-quarter econ-

A boom that was fuelled by private-sector debt preceded downturn in Britain; in Germany the main debtor is the state

omic activity is generally overestimated, despite seasonal and calendar adjustments, while third-quarter figures tend to be too low. Technically, based on the Anglo-Saxon definition of two consecutive quarters of falling output, there was a small recession last year, but this was probably due more to statistics than to economics. German growth was high until the middle of

last year, after which it fell sharply. If unification created inflationary demand, especially for cars and consumer durables, it would follow to regard the subsequent decline in demand to a more sustainable level as a sign of a recession.

Mixed signs abound. The strength of the mark led to a worsening of Germany's terms of trade. Exports have been falling recently and the current account balance is now negative after many years of strong surpluses. Unemployment is rising, albeit from a low level. Retail sales and industrial production are down. Construction is an exception, remaining buoyant because of the demand for new roads and housing in the east.

Overall, the west German economy's decline in growth is quite spectacular. But little anecdotal evidence has emerged to demonstrate that the country is in recession. There has been no wave of home repossession, no increase in the rate of bankruptcies, no boom in the liquidation industry. Instead, German high streets look as prosperous as ever. The *Bierkeller* are as crowded and the *Autobahnen* as congested. Inflation

is heading downwards to about 3.5 per cent this month and even the dreaded growth of money supply shows signs of coming down. Recently, though, one could sense some change. Especially in the affluent South West of the country, a haven of small and medium-sized companies, or *Mittelstand* as they are known, economic activity appears to have been slowing. The *Mittelstand* tends to scream loudest when times get tough, and their screams have been rather shrill of late.

The textile industry, including textile engineering, is in deep difficulties. The chemical industry has not yet escaped from the sharpest downturn in its cycle for a long time. Even the car industry, probably the single most important pillar of German manufacturing, is experiencing difficulties, as car sales are running below the (admittedly very high) levels prevailing last year.

Official forecasts are no guide, either. The government says the economy in the west of the country will grow at about 2 per cent; the OECD and the independent institutes forecast somewhat less. The chief economist of one of the leading institutes said he expected a recession, according to the more generous German definition of an annual fall in output.

Last week, a group of 20 independent economists presented a gloomy report to Jürgen Möllemann, the economics minister, calling for a wholesale overhaul of economic and monetary policies. Their conclusion was that the German economy was heading for an accident as government, Bundesbank and unions all pursued different objectives, creating "an obstacle, not only for us but for the whole of Europe".

The inertia of the system will ensure that the call for radical change, however well intended, is a waste of time. The Bundesbank is presiding over the highest interest rates in the history of the federal republic. Recent small falls in money supply and inflation might suggest that interest rates have peaked but they affect the economy only after considerable lags of time. Tomorrow's recession is the consequence of last year's rise in interest rates.

Britain went through many of these developments during the 1980s: the uncritical belief in money supply figures, and the damaging, time-lagged effects of consistently high interest rates. Britain's downturn, too, was preceded by an unsustainable debt-financed boom, the only difference being that the debtor was the private sector, not the state, as in Germany.

Germany is probably more robust than Britain was at the end of the 1980s. Unless, however, the Bundesbank drops its obsession with the money supply, which some of the Bundesbank's hardliners regard as public enemy number one. Germany, and the rest of Europe, might be in for a rough time.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Lynch's party

SHOULD newspaper reports on the retail price index and the GDP suddenly acquire a new sophistication, the reason could well be yesterday's first "look-behind-the-scenes" seminar for journalists at the Central Statistical Office in Great George Street. The seminar was the idea of Australian Bill McLennan, who took charge of the CSO in March. McLennan, aged 48, shook up the department earlier this year by announcing that, contrary to the previous policy laid down by Lord Rayner, the CSO would now market its wares to outsiders as well as the government. McLennan is now turning his reforming zeal to journalists, whom he believes often give far too simplistic explanations of the CSO's complicated statistics. In an effort to educate them, McLennan yesterday got one of his experts, senior CSO statistician Robin Lynch, to explain the abstruse science of Britain's national accounts to the press. Whether it will lead to a better understanding remains to be seen. But the fact that two dozen journalists showed up for what promised to be one of the driest of press briefings suggests that there is at least a willingness to learn.

Director's dilemma

CHRISTOPHER Bunker, finance director at Westland Aircraft, may become a hostage to fortune by taking on the same job at Lucas Industries, the motor and aerospace firm. The post has been vacant



Pearse: launched book

since David Hankinson left in March and Bunker's appointment is widely expected. But it is not the first time this year he has been ready to move camps. He was on the point of joining engineering firm Dowty in April when "it" bid put paid to it. Observers do not rule out a similar scenario again with several potential bidders, including Bosch, Siebe and Smiths Industries, thought interested in Lucas. Last week Lucas advised analysts to downgrade their forecasts for the year to July and some fear Lucas may even go into the red — not a good omen for Bunker.

Economy round

IF THE sight of all the foot stamping at the opening of the Olympics made you long to follow suit, now is your chance. Broadgate Centre is staging its own Spanish and Olympics extravaganza over the next two weeks and on Thursday lunchtime flamenco

beginners can vent their passions. Next week the *El Caballo* dancing horses will be the star turn while a rather different equestrian event takes place in Exchange Square today with showjumping, of sorts, organized by Hendersons, the fund manager. Hendersons sponsor Britain's Olympic showjumpers John and Michael Whitaker for £500,000 a year but are going for the cheap option today — no horses. All contestants must cross the hurdles, including the water jump.

History rewritten

ENJOYING one of his first nights off after several months of non-stop work during the Hongkong and Shanghai takeover saga, Midland chief executive Brian Pearse last week found himself in the very grand Lutyns room at Midland's Poultry headquarters launching a book on behalf of one of the bank's oldest customers. The book, *A Tower of Strength*, by Patrick Beaver, is to mark the centenary of the Royal School for Deaf Children. According to the publicity material, Midland's connection with the school is that it has been its banker for the past 200 years. As Pearse, admitted, however, there was a slight problem in that "although we have always been bankers to the school, Midland has not been going for 200 years." The claim, Pearse reckons, must go back to the days when Midland had a Barnumside subsidiary, near the school, which it later took over.

DEBRA ISAAC

Privatised utilities must finance investment from capital market

From Mr Daniel Andrew Sir, Your Comment (July 20)

"A second problem is that water prices do not simply reflect costs. Up to a third of the charges of big companies are to pay for part of the investment programmes required by regulators, mainly to improve quality. Nor do average prices necessarily reflect higher long run marginal costs..."

I dispute the argument put forward by the recently privatised utilities with their monopoly privileges that they are entitled to include in their costs, for pricing purposes, a charge to pay for part of the investment programmes required (whether by regulators or not) to improve quality or to meet projected extra demand. Surely, since the producing companies are now owned by private shareholders, it is up to

these shareholders and not the purchasers of their companies' products to provide the additional capital requirements which may be foreseen.

Pricing of the privatisation of the utilities ensured that the new owners of the companies acquired the assets at a favourable price. Any additional capital required to improve quality of product or expand capacity should be found from the capital market and not by over-charging consumers of the products.

I can well see that under continuing monetary inflation there is a case for charging replacement cost depreciation on existing assets before calculating a justifiable profit margin, but that is not the issue here. Yours faithfully, DANIEL M. ANDREW, 32 Sonning Meadows, Sonning, Reading, Berkshire.

London's time advantage as financial centre

From Mr Leif Mills Sir, There is a lot of discussion — and lobbying — in various corners of Europe over the proposed site for the European Monetary Institute. The EMI will be the forerunner for the proposed European Central Bank and this issue is crucial for the finance sector of this country.

By the criteria of expertise, communication, business and access, London stands out as the prime candidate. As well as the wider considerations, there is also the critical issue of employment.

One of the often forgotten attributes of London is the fact that, because the world's time system is based on Greenwich Mean Time, London straddles the new 24-hour global

trading in foreign exchange securities and futures. Whatever other countries may say, 0 degrees longitude goes through London.

History records that Napoleon's attempt to base the world's time system on a meridian going through Paris failed.

I hope that the attempts to site the European Central Bank elsewhere in Europe will also fail.

Yours faithfully, LEIF MILLS, General Secretary, Banking, Insurance and Finance Union, 1b Amity Grove, SW20.

Letters can be sent by fax on 071-782 5112.

BUSINESS LETTERS

Japanese cars in Italy

From R.F. Channon Sir, Dr James Cope (Business Letters, July 23) may have thought he saw loyalty to Fiat in Florence, but there is more

to it than that. I understand that about 40 years ago, the Japanese government, to protect its nascent car industry, negotiated with the Italians to limit the number of cars traded either way to a few

thousand. This agreement is still in force. Yours faithfully, R.F. CHANNON, Almond House, Stoke-by-Nayland, Colchester.

THE TIMES PORTFOLIO DEALING SERVICE

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Signature: _____ Name: _____

Daytime phone number: _____

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Hambro Clearing Ltd can accept no liability for loss of certificates or transfers or delay in the post.
We reserve the right to refuse any order. Family sales offer is permissible for a maximum of 4 members with the same surname and same address and same stock. Your holding may be divided with others, this might mean you receive a slightly higher or lower price than if they had not been. This is not a recommendation or an offer.
Information provided on this form may be held by Hambro Clearing Ltd and other companies within its Group in their computer records.

THE TIMES TUESDAY JULY 28 1992

MAJOR INDICES

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Australia (Contd.)	25192-25824	Austria	1045-1047
Bahrain dinar	0.714-0.723	Belgium (Com)	30.76-30.80
Brazil cruzeiro *	7731.34-7735.76	Canada	1.1882-1.1885

Portfolio

PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on the range only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily dividend figures. If it matches you have won outright or a share of the daily prize money. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Open	Close
1	Amalgamated	Building	100.00	100.00
2	Amalgamated	Building	100.00	100.00
3	Amalgamated	Building	100.00	100.00
4	Amalgamated	Building	100.00	100.00
5	Amalgamated	Building	100.00	100.00
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39	Amalgamated	Building	100.00	100.00
40	Amalgamated	Building	100.00	100.00
41	Amalgamated	Building	100.00	100.00
42	Amalgamated	Building	100.00	100.00
43	Amalgamated	Building	100.00	100.00
44	Amalgamated	Building	100.00	100.00

© Times Newspapers Ltd. Total

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend
Please make a note of your daily dividend for the weekly dividend of £8,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT Total

Three readers shared the Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday. Mrs H Cooper, of York; Mr T Scott, of Cardiff, and Mr J Gether, of Hastings, each receive £666.66.

1992 High Low Company Price Bid Net Yld % P/E

1992	High	Low	Company	Price	Bid	Net Yld	%	P/E
1	100.00	100.00	Amalgamated	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
2	100.00	100.00	Amalgamated	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
3	100.00	100.00	Amalgamated	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
4	100.00	100.00	Amalgamated	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
5	100.00	100.00	Amalgamated	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
6	100.00	100.00	Amalgamated	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
7	100.00	100.00	Amalgamated	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
8	100.00	100.00	Amalgamated	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
9	100.00	100.00	Amalgamated	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
10	100.00	100.00	Amalgamated	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
11	100.00	100.00	Amalgamated	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
12	100.00	100.00	Amalgamated	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
13	100.00	100.00	Amalgamated	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
14	100.00	100.00	Amalgamated	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
15	100.00	100.00	Amalgamated	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
16	100.00	100.00	Amalgamated	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
17	100.00	100.00	Amalgamated	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
18	100.00	100.00	Amalgamated	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
19	100.00	100.00	Amalgamated	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
20	100.00	100.00	Amalgamated	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
21	100.00	100.00	Amalgamated	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
22	100.00	100.00	Amalgamated	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
23	100.00	100.00	Amalgamated	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
24	100.00	100.00	Amalgamated	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
25	100.00	100.00	Amalgamated	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
26	100.00	100.00	Amalgamated	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
27	100.00	100.00	Amalgamated	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
28	100.00	100.00	Amalgamated	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
29	100.00	100.00	Amalgamated	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
30	100.00	100.00	Amalgamated	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
31	100.00	100.00	Amalgamated	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
32	100.00	100.00	Amalgamated	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
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34	100.00	100.00	Amalgamated	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
35	100.00	100.00	Amalgamated	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
36	100.00	100.00	Amalgamated	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
37	100.00	100.00	Amalgamated	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
38	100.00	100.00	Amalgamated	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
39	100.00	100.00	Amalgamated	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
40	100.00	100.00	Amalgamated	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
41	100.00	100.00	Amalgamated	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
42	100.00	100.00	Amalgamated	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
43	100.00	100.00	Amalgamated	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
44	100.00	100.00	Amalgamated	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

1992	High	Low	Company	Price	Bid	Net Yld	%	P/E
1	100.00	100.00	Amalgamated	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
2	100.00	100.00	Amalgamated	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
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4	100.00	100.00	Amalgamated	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
5	100.00	100.00	Amalgamated	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
6	100.00	100.00	Amalgamated	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
7	100.00	100.00	Amalgamated	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
8	100.00	100.00	Amalgamated	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
9	100.00	100.00	Amalgamated	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
10	100.00	100.00	Amalgamated	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
11	100.00	100.00	Amalgamated	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
12	100.00	100.00	Amalgamated	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
13	100.00	100.00	Amalgamated	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
14	100.00	100.00	Amalgamated	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
15	100.00	100.00	Amalgamated	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
16	100.00	100.00	Amalgamated	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
17	100.00	100.00	Amalgamated	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
18	100.00	100.00	Amalgamated	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
19	100.00	100.00	Amalgamated	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
20	100.00	100.00	Amalgamated	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
21	100.00	100.00	Amalgamated	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
22	100.00	100.00	Amalgamated	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
23	100.00	100.00	Amalgamated	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
24	100.00	100.00	Amalgamated	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
25	100.00	100.00	Amalgamated	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
26	100.00	100.00	Amalgamated	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
27	100.00	100.00	Amalgamated	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
28	100.00	100.00	Amalgamated	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
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31	100.00	100.00	Amalgamated	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
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33	100.00	100.00	Amalgamated	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
34	100.00	100.00	Amalgamated	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
35	100.00	100.00	Amalgamated	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
36	100.00	100.00	Amalgamated	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
37	100.00	100.00	Amalgamated	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
38	100.00	100.00	Amalgamated	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
39	100.00	100.00	Amalgamated	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
40	100.00	100.00	Amalgamated	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
41	100.00	100.00	Amalgamated	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
42	100.00	100.00	Amalgamated	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
43	100.00	100.00	Amalgamated	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
44	100.00	100.00	Amalgamated	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

BUILDING, ROADS

1992	High	Low	Company	Price	Bid	Net Yld	%	P/E
1	100.00	100.00	Amalgamated	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
2	100.00	100.00	Amalgamated	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
3	100.00	100.00	Amalgamated	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
4	100.00	100.00	Amalgamated	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00
5	100.00	100.00	Amalgamated	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00	100.00

Cleveland's thriving economy turns heads

By Derek Harris

CLEVELAND, Ohio, former heart of America's Mid West "rust belt", is improving its image abroad to match the advances made in its industries. The city was best known decades ago as the place where waste pouring from the steel industry regularly turned the Cuyahoga into a river of fire. Cleveland, which stands at the mouth of the river, at the edge of Lake Erie, claims to be one of the country's biggest success stories.

It changed from an apparently defeated city into a quality centre for activities ranging from medical science to tourism. Now a civic team is touring Europe, starting with Britain, to attract new business. To emphasise Cleveland's cultural strengths, its renowned city orchestra, under Christoph von Dohnányi, the music director, has been playing at the Proms at the Royal Albert Hall, in London. This week it is performing at the Salzburg Festival, Austria.

Business for Cleveland means attracting inward investment as well as foreign tourists, especially Britons. Ohio tourism volumes have risen a third in the last four years. James Biggar, formerly head in the US of Nestlé, of Switzerland, and chairman of the New Cleveland Campaign, said: "British and indeed European companies can move into the US relatively cheaply, whether buying into companies or just setting up shop there. British companies already established in the city include BP, which has its corporate US headquarters there, ICI's Glidden subsidiary, Lucas Aerospace, a medical equipment division of the General Electric Company (GEC) and Fosco.

The Cleveland team offers advice on urban renewal to inner cities needing revitalisation and is regularly visited by those wanting to learn how Cleveland achieved the changes. Its help has been sought from Detroit to Poland. In 1978 Cleveland was bankrupt. Cleveland Tomorrow, a coalition of 50 senior business executives willing to organise cash injections in co-operation with the public sector, became an agent of change. It encouraged investment with a \$50 million injection and total investment in the city in the past decade amounted to about \$7 billion. The downtown area is thriving. Crime rates are relatively low and entertainment and other tourism attractions are being boosted by a new sports stadium. A rock and roll museum is being built. This autumn, Cleveland zoo will open a \$30 million artificial rain forest, covering two acres, containing exotic flora and fauna including giant butterflies.



Urban renewal: the city has polished off its rust-belt image with investment

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Jonathan Macrae or Debra Fox (both solicitors) would be delighted to provide additional information on any of these positions or more general confidential expert career advice. For further information please contact us on 071-377 0510 (071-226 1558 evenings/weekends) or write to us at Zarak Macrae Brenner, Recruitment Consultants, 37 Sun Street, London EC2M 2PY.

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FLUENT GERMAN To £35,000
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ZARAK
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Successful applicants will work as part of a team based in London and Moscow dealing with rapidly developing legal systems and assisting multinationals, financial institutions and governments on a range of projects. The work is varied, challenging and encompasses a wide range of legal and commercial skills. Fluency in written and spoken English and Russian is required.

The applicants will be based in London initially, but there will be extensive opportunities to travel to Moscow. Postings to our Moscow office will be offered to appropriate candidates.

Please write with career details to:

Tony Williams

Royex House
Aldermanbury Square
London EC2V 7LD

Telephone: 071 600 0808
Telex: 8959991 COWARD G
Fax: 071 726 8561

CLIFFORD CHANCE

AMSTERDAM BRUSSELS FRANKFURT HONG KONG LONDON MADRID MOSCOW NEW YORK PARIS SINGAPORE TOKYO UNITED ARAB EMIRATES WARSAW
ASSOCIATED OFFICES: BAHRAIN SAUDI ARABIA

NATIONAL MUTUAL LIFE

LEGAL GRADUATE required

LEGAL SERVICES/
COMPANY SECRETARY'S
OFFICE

A Legal Graduate is required to join the Legal Services Department to assist the Company Secretary who is also the Legal Services Manager in an area of increasing workload. In particular the candidate should have some knowledge and experience of life and pensions business and the attendant legislation.

The Department deals with the whole spectrum of the law as it affects the Society and its business. This includes its pensions business, its mortgage lending, support and advice to the Branches, the Marketing Department and indeed all the Head Office Departments, the minuting of meetings, Company administration and Company returns in respect of both the Society and the subsidiaries of the Society and generally.

The job entails keeping abreast of legislation and current practice as it affects the Society's business including pensions, trust arrangements and wherever we seek to market our products. The Financial Services Act 1986 is a trenchant example of such legislation.

The applicant must have a keen appetite for work in all these fields and an ability to adapt and relate to Solicitors and Counsel whom we see and consult in the course of our business. In essence the job is dealing with the law as it relates to an active life and pensions office.

The vacancy is based in our Head Office at Hitchin, set in 29 acres of parkland.

The employment package consists of a competitive salary, annual bonus and free lunches. After a qualifying period a non-contributory pension scheme and reduced rate staff mortgage are available.

Applications in writing only with C.V. and current salary to:

Mr J. G. Stuart, Personnel & Training Manager
The Priory, Hitchin,
Herts SG5 2DW.
Telephone 0462 422422

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Salary circa £24,000 pa London W1

The Retail Motor Industry Federation is the principal organisation representing the motor trade, the members of which sell, service, repair and recover all types of motor vehicles, and sell fuel.

A vacancy exists for a lawyer at the Head Office in London to join a team providing advice on a whole range of matters, but principally commercial, consumer, European and employment law.

The position offers an excellent opportunity for developing experience in a broad field of commercial activity.

In addition to an attractive starting salary, a range of benefits is offered, including 25 days annual holiday, contributory pension scheme, and private health insurance.

Please apply in confidence with full CV, including details of current salary to:
Mrs D O'Donoghue
Personnel Administrator
Retail Motor Industry Federation Limited
201 Great Portland Street
London W1N 6AB

Commercial Solicitor

London

to £37,000 + car + financial sector benefits

Our client is a market leader in the provision of retail financial services to the UK and, more recently, European markets. Internal promotion has created a vacancy for a solicitor to provide legal advice on a range of commercial issues to the executive and management of the organisation.

Reporting to the head of the legal department, you will be responsible for ensuring that the organisation's interests are protected in relation to all legal aspects of its business. In addition, you will advise on the expansion of business activities within the UK and Europe and participate in management teams on the development and marketing of new products and services.

A solicitor with, ideally, five years' experience in commerce or private practice, you should be familiar with the provisions of the Financial Services Act and have a practical approach to problem solving. You will need well developed communication skills and be able to work under pressure to strict deadlines. Some management experience would be preferred.

Please reply in writing to Ben Colman or David Kennedy, Clark Whitehill Consultants Limited, 25 New Street Square, London EC4A 3LN. Tel: 071 353 1577, Fax: 071 353 0525.



CLARK WHITEHILL
Search and Selection

The Chambers at
4 Pump Court,
Temple, London EC4Y 7AN
are pleased to announce that
Mr David Friedman Q.C. has
joined them with effect from
6th July 1992.

Tel: 071 353 2656
Fax: 071 583 2036
LDE: 303 CHANCERY LANE



3 Paper Buildings Temple, London EC4Y 7EU

The chambers of Mr.I.E. Jacob
are pleased to announce that
Mr. John Tackaberry Q.C.
has accepted an invitation to join chambers.

Tel: 071 797 7000, Fax: 071 797 7100.
DX 0071 London/ Chancery Lane.

Senior clerk, S.W. Evers.

Mr. Tackaberry will also continue to practise from
Arbitration Chambers, 22 Willes Road,
London NW5 3DS.

1 Crown Office Row, Temple,
London EC4Y 7HH

The Chambers of George Newman QC

at 1, Crown Office Row, Temple are pleased to announce that Mr. Arthur Ashton who has been practising in South Africa for over 17 years has accepted an invitation to join chambers from the 20th July 1992. Mr. Ashton practises in intellectual property, chancery and commercial law.

Senior Clerk: Mr. Richard Loasby
Tel: 071 583 9292, Fax: 071 353 9292,
LDE: 212

To arms, on the green front

Lawyers are offering help to environmental campaigners.

Martin Polden reports

A group of lawyers has become environmentally friendly. In an attempt to tackle ecological problems, the Environmental Law Foundation (ELF) was set up earlier this year. The not-for-profit organisation was started by lawyers, environmentalists and scientists to provide advice, direction and representation for citizen groups and communities dealing with environmental problems.

Six months on, more than 60 cases have been referred to the network of 130 solicitors and other consultants who are in the foundation, enabling people to challenge local environmental threats.

A quarter of cases concern proposed commercial development, sometimes on greenbelt land. Others involve landfill sites, noise pollution, toxic health hazards and problems with roads, both built and planned.

The foundation is also involved in many of the biggest environmental disputes and potential disputes in Britain today, such as the M11 link road.

The privatisation of electricity, for example, has led to a rush of proposals for new power stations, which the National Grid is duty bound to connect. This has prompted many plans for new power lines, which Revolt (Rural England Versus Overhead Line Transmission), a group in West Yorkshire, is opposing. The foundation put Revolt in touch with a member firm in the area, which was able to provide advice and also to help the group to choose the type of submissions appropriate to the planning enquiry that will follow.

Iris Wilkinson of Revolt says that the advice and support the group has received at minimum cost from Kate Hall of Gordon Wright & Wright, a foundation member, has



"made all the difference". In Harwich, Essex, a group of residents was confronted with a planning application to build a mixture of office and industrial development on a 64-acre greenfield site near a residential area.

The site, which is the first port of call for an immigrating breed of geese, is low-lying and misty. The residents were worried about exhaust fumes and noise and said two other sites were more suitable. The council disagreed.

The group contacted the foundation and was referred to Bruce Bowler at Gepp & Sons, who was able to have the construction work postponed. Armed with advice, the group asked the council to make an

environmental impact assessment. When the council refused, the group wrote to the environment department, which initially said an assessment should be made but later reversed that view.

One member of the group obtained legal aid for a counsel's opinion and won leave for a judicial review which is likely to be heard in the autumn. Meanwhile, the development is frozen. Until the residents contacted the foundation, they had not realised there could be a legal remedy.

The start of the process is when a member of the public — usually a member of a community action group — who has a problem with an environmental nuisance or

threat, contacts the foundation. If it considers that the case is appropriate to its role, it refers it to a member firm with offices as near as possible to the client.

The client then receives an initial and free assessment on the case: what steps might be taken and the likely level of success. Sometimes the client will be referred to a planning or environmental consultant.

As an additional resource, the foundation has access to an advisory council comprising a number of planning and administrative law Queen's Counsel, academics and practising solicitors, as well as environmentalists such as Jonathan Porritt and Edward Goldsmith.

If the case looks promising, it is up to the local group to arrange funding, either by seeking legal aid, or appropriate, or by raising money locally. The foundation's experience is that when campaign groups have

been armed with a positive and optimistic first summary, fund-raising becomes a real possibility. Fund-raising is nevertheless a problem: without adequate finances, citizens cannot begin to match the resources of big corporations they are taking on.

The case work proceeds from there in the hands of the law firm or other experts. Most areas are now covered but lawyers with environmental law experience are still needed in Kent, Sussex, West Midlands and the outlying regions of Scotland.

Few cases have yet reached a conclusion. But the foundation has clearly proved the need for affordable advice, backed, where needed, with action to counter environmental threats.

● Martin Polden, senior partner of Rubinstein Callingham Polden & Gale, is chairman of the Environmental Law Foundation, Kings College London, Atkins Buildings South (128), Camden Hill Road, London W8 7AH (071-333 4100).

Smother hate with freedom of speech

In June 1990, several teenagers were accused of burning a cross in the front yard of a black family living in St Paul, Minnesota. The teenagers could have been prosecuted for any number of crimes, including criminal damage to property. But charges were brought by the city under an ordinance that prohibits placing on property any symbol "including, but not limited to, a burning cross or Nazi swastika" which "arouses anger, alarm or resentment in others on the basis of race, colour, creed, religion or gender".

Last month, the US Supreme Court unanimously held that the ordinance is unlawful as a breach of the First Amendment to the US Constitution, which guarantees freedom of expression. The judgment focuses attention on the difficult and sensitive question of regulating hate speech.

In American constitutional law, expressive conduct such as flag-burning may qualify as speech. Five of the Supreme Court justices concluded that the ordinance was unconstitutional because it prohibits speech solely on the basis of its content. Either all speech arousing anger or alarm must be made unlawful, or none.

The other four justices adopted a more conventional route to the same conclusion that there was a breach of the First Amendment. It is permissible to prohibit speech which is "fighting talk" because it has no communicative content. But the ordinance is over-broad since it makes criminal a substantial amount of expression which, however repugnant, does communicate the views of the speaker. As Justice White explained, "the mere fact that expressive activity causes hurt feelings, offence or resentment" does not justify the denial of constitutional protection.

All of this may be surprising and unfamiliar to lawyers brought up in the common law or continental tradition of European legal systems. No doubt because of the tragic history of Europe this century, freedom of expression is not so absolute in relation to hate speech on this side of the Atlantic. Laws such as the incitement to racial hatred provisions in the Public Order Act and group libel laws in Europe, prohibit speech which abuses others by reason of their race or religion. In 1979, the European Commission of Human Rights dismissed a complaint that a Dutch law which punished incitement to racial discrimination was a breach of freedom of expression as guaranteed under the European Convention of Human Rights.

All of these issues are the subject of an interesting new book, *Striking a Balance: Hate Speech, Freedom of Expression and Non-Discrimination*, edited by Sandra

Coliver and published by Article 19, the International Centre Against Censorship (£9.95). The distinguished contributors explain and analyse the different solutions adopted in respect of a universal problem by a variety of international norms, national laws and policy statements of non-governmental organisations.

No country is as protective of free speech as the United States. The content of American law is determined by a combination of the principled and the pragmatic. For the States to have the power to prosecute people for the offensive content of what they say is to adopt vague standards which will lead to arbitrary enforcement and will deter and so undermine free speech by others. To prosecute those who abuse free speech is to confer publicity on, and to create martyrs of, some of the most repellent elements in society.

American law, therefore, proceeds on the premise that to ignore racists, or to engage them in open debate, is a much more effective means of reducing their support and demonstrating their poverty of thought than prosecuting them in court. As Mr Justice Brandeis of the Supreme Court wrote in 1927, other than in circumstances of extreme urgency, the remedy for falsehoods "is more speech, not enforced silence".

For Europeans, by contrast, the law is a statement of basic principles of civilised conduct, a means of educating society in what is decent and proper.

European law agrees with Professor Alexander Bickel of Yale Law School that "where nothing is unspeakable, nothing is undecidable".

As memories of the Nazi Holocaust fade, and support for racism grows, society will be under increasing pressure to draw lines between permissible expression with which we may not agree and unacceptable hate speech which we are determined to prevent. Many commentators are suggesting that denial of the Holocaust should be made a criminal offence in the United Kingdom.

There are no easy answers to these complex and troubling issues. But the most persuasive statement in Sandra Coliver's book is that of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, the leading organisation opposing anti-Semitism in the US. The league "believes that the best answer to hate speech is not laws driving it underground, but decent people speaking out, society making such hatred unfashionable and unacceptable, and the power of education, of confronting prejudice by teaching children and adults that differences should be celebrated."

● The author is a practising barrister and a Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford.



COUNSEL
DAVID
PANNICK QC

Caught between a web of abuse and the web of the law

When women strike back

Along with the imprisonment of Sara Thornton and others, the case of Kianjit Ahluwalia now before the Court of Appeal again raises the legal issues concerning abused wives who strike back at their partners.

There seems to be some agreement that the present position, whereby women who take what they see as their only way out from a web of abuse and violence to find themselves entrapped in the equally unyielding web of the law, is unacceptable. But there is less agreement about a solution.

There are several salient factors. First, the common law and the Homicide Act 1957 provide a number of defences — self defence, diminished responsibility and provocation — which might avail a woman who has killed her partner. Second, some domestic homicides are just as much murder as killing in any other circumstances. Third, the problem is not entirely of the law's creation, resulting partly from society's tolerance of male abuse and of a failure to provide women with adequate means of escape through, for example, the provision of

refuges. The problem seems to be that the limitations on such defences lead to a number of women who strike back at their abusers being convicted of murder and sentenced, inevitably, to life imprisonment. There is a grey area between those circumstances that would clearly be regarded as murder and those to which the available defences now apply.

One suggested solution is that the limitations on the availability of defences ought to be modified through judicial development. This particularly applies to provocation, where it is argued that the requirement of a "sudden and temporary loss of self control" should be removed. Alternatively new legislation could be brought in either to modify existing defences or to create a new one.

The danger with both of these approaches is that the difficulties in formulating new boundaries would simply create another grey area and a new set of hard cases. If shifting the boundaries of the law offers no solution, perhaps the exercise of discretion should be considered. But any discretion as exists lies largely with the prosecuting

authorities. And in the sense that it is not exercised publicly and is therefore largely unaccountable, neither is this solution acceptable.

The proper solution would therefore seem to be to shift the present exercise of discretion in such cases to the courts, where it would be exercised openly and subject to account through the appellate process. This would need two further changes to the law: the first and essential requirement would be to abolish the mandatory life sentence for murder, a change with strong support among the senior judges and Lord Chief Justice.

The second change involves clear guidelines for the exercise of this new discretion. One can argue that the Court of Appeal has neither the range of representation nor access to the range of evidence needed to consider the policy questions necessarily involved in setting such guidelines. Such a task should be undertaken by a new sentencing court.

MARTIN HUNT

● The author is head of legal studies, Elm Park College, Stanmore, west London.

Euro law appeal

SIR Ivan Lawrence QC, the new chairman of the influential home affairs committee of MPs, has thrown his weight behind the incorporation of the European Convention on Human Rights into UK law. He was a panelist at the fourth of Charter 88's "seventy" lectures given last week by Lord Scarman. Despite all the problems, Sir Ivan favoured incorporation rather than having our "dirty laundry washed in public" through cases before the European Court of Human Rights.

Lord Scarman called for a bill of rights to protect democracy, giving a warning that government was now above the law. The government's view that citizens' charters and subsidiarity were the only constitutional reforms needed was nonsense, he said.

Honesty policy?

NEVER slow to spot an opportunity, the insurance industry is gearing up to exploit pensioners' fears created by Robert Maxwell's theft of his companies' pension fund assets. Willis Faber & Dumas,

INNS AND OUTS

with Chubb Insurance, has developed a Fidelity and Crime insurance policy designed to protect pension fund beneficiaries against losses caused by dishonest and criminal acts by the trustees of occupational pension schemes.

The policy, which is bought by the trustees, would compensate the beneficiaries for financial loss.

Let's hope the trustees don't misuse it...

I'd like to claim on the money I stole from myself

Numbers game

PRACTITIONERS already exasperated by delays in the Royal Courts of Justice will have another cross to bear in the autumn. The numbering of the rooms in the labyrinthine building, which has existed for more than 100 years, is to be changed.

"We all know that room 98 is a judge in chambers," one says. "Now it is going to be R15 or W10. You will not be able to say, 'Meet you in the bear garden, room 98, any more'."

When this becomes generally known, lawyers will go "stark staring raving bonkers", he predicts.

Spoilsports

COULD the Brussels bureaucrats put a damper on children who do dangerous things on swings and roundabouts? Undaunted by the apparent dwindling of faith in European unity, the European Community is still churning out draft directives on every topic, including children's playgrounds. In the future not only the safety

standard of playground equipment but also its layout and use may come under a Brussels decree. So will the EC send its monitors into our parks to deal with those nasty little boys who hog the slides?

France follows

THE French are at last beginning to catch up with the rest of Europe in the provision of legal aid. While UK legal aid lawyers protest at low levels of remuneration and the number of people falling out of the legal aid net, the French spend only 10 per cent of the annual UK expenditure in helping their citizens with legal costs.

This month's *Legal Action* bulletin, however, outlines the French government's plans to increase per capita spending to £3, about the same as in Germany, to establish national and regional legal aid boards and to extend legal aid to cover advice as well as representation in courts and tribunals.

The new law has also substantially increased eligibility levels and almost half of all French households are expected to qualify for at least some legal aid. The scheme will be extended to nationals of other EC states.

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Legal Recruitment

Law Report July 28 1992 Court of Appeal

Repugnant to justice to withhold relevant documents in libel case

Regina v Bromell
Re Coventry Evening News-
papers Ltd

Before Lord Taylor of Gosforth, Lord Chief Justice, Mr Justice Simon Brown and Mr Justice Roch

[Judgment July 24]

It would be repugnant to justice if documents which appeared to point to corruption on the part of named police officers could not be disclosed to defendants in a libel action brought by those officers who had already recovered substantial libel damages from other sections of the media.

It was not to be tolerated that those same officers should continue to make the press in damages while the courts disabled their adversaries from an effective defence by withholding the documents.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, so held in allowing an application by Coventry Evening Newspapers Ltd and varying an implied undertaking by Michael Thomas Bromell that documents which came into existence during an enquiry by the Police Complaints Authority (PCA) and released to him for the purposes of his appeal against conviction should be used only for that purpose.

The conviction of Mr Bromell, aged 45, in October 1987 at Warwick Crown Court (Judge Harrison-Hall, QC and a jury) of unlawful wounding, for which he was sentenced to seven years imprisonment, was quashed on June 18 after the disappearance from the crown court file of notes of

his alleged confession to officers of the since disbanded West Midlands Serious Crime Squad.

The PCA documents, which came into existence consequent on a complaint by Mr Bromell, consisting of witness statements and other documents relating to the appeal, had been supplied to him for the purposes of his successful appeal on a reference by the Home Secretary under section 17(1)(a) of the Criminal Appeal Act 1968 and consequent on an order by Lord Lane, Lord Chief Justice, last July.

The application for disclosure by varying the implied undertaking to allow Mr Bromell to hand over the documents to the newspaper was made by the Coventry Evening Telegraph, defendants in a libel action brought by two officers after the first case in which electrostatic deposition analysis of interview notes had exposed police malpractice.

The officers had been permitted unsupervised inspection of the court file and had examined the papers on it. They claimed that they had been libelled in an article published by the newspaper in April 1991 headlined "Why the chief cracked down on his crime staff". The article referred to the suggestion that the original interview notes with the successful appellant had been removed by two officers from the serious crime squad and had suggested that allegations about tampering with files could never be proved because the vital evidence contained in the file had disappeared.

The two officers, named Woodley and Clifford, were sub-

jected to an investigation which, it was announced by the deputy chief constable, had produced no evidence that they had removed anything from the court file and they were returned to duty. They claimed that the article carried the clearly defamatory innuendo that their vindication by the deputy chief constable was worthless.

Each officer had already recovered over £40,000 damages in settlement of similar claims against *The Independent*, *The Guardian* and the BBC. The one action remaining was against the applicants, who had been unable to plead justification in defence to the claim.

As a result of Lord Lane's order and of revelations during the successful appeal, the newspaper was in a position to plead justification and sought to see the PCA documents. It expected to be able to do so with full particularity and expected that admissible evidence would become available with the documents, so that the history of the events would be placed before the libel jury.

The application was resisted by PCA on the ground that the documents were covered by public interest immunity.

Mr Desmond Browne, QC and Mr Mark Warby for the newspaper; Mr Stephen Richards for PCA.

The LORD CHIEF JUSTICE, giving the reserved judgment of the court, said that the application raised difficult and important questions of public interest.

The application was before their Lordships' court because the im-

plied undertaking was given to their court and they alone had power to vary it. Whatever they decided could not be the subject of appeal in view of section 33 of the Criminal Appeal Act 1968.

The existence of public interest immunity was plainly established in *Nelson v Lagherne* [1981] QB 736 and had not since been doubted. The most recent decision was *Makanjuola v Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis* (The Times March 31, 1989), in which the court recognized that circumstances might arise which required the disclosure of documents within the otherwise immune class because of some yet more potent countervailing public interest.

The public interest in establishing innocence in criminal proceedings was classically recognized as one such countervailing public interest. No one had suggested that there could not be others.

Mr Richards urged that disclosure orders ought only to be made in the most exceptional circumstances less otherwise the public interest underlying the immunity be insidiously destroyed. Their Lordships accepted that.

He argued that only very exceptionally should the implied undertaking be varied to permit disclosure of documents to be used for ulterior purposes, not least when the application was made by a third party and for the purposes of proceedings wholly unconnected with those in which discovery was ordered.

With citations from *Home Office v Harman* [1983] AC 280; *Crest Homes plc v Marks* [1987] AC 829 and *Bibby Bulk Carriers Ltd*

v Consuler Ltd [1989] QB 155) Mr Richards submitted that their Lordships should think long and hard before waiving Mr Bromell's undertaking merely so as to improve the newspaper's position in its libel action. The fortuitous intervention of a criminal appeal during the course of those proceedings ought not, he contended, to persuade their Lordships to permit any departure from the usual strict approach taken rightly to implied undertakings.

His Lordship said that that argument would be formidable indeed had the implied undertaking been given in the usual way in civil proceedings. Nothing decided in the present case was intended to diminish the high importance rightly recognised to attach to the concept of the implied undertaking as a necessary way of underpinning the integrity of the discovery process.

However, characterisations of discovery as a serious invasion of the privacy and confidentiality of a litigant's affairs, although of the clearest application to discovery given in private civil litigation, appeared to their Lordships as altogether less obviously apt in relation to an order such as that made in Mr Bromell's appeal.

The public immunity in question was intended to reassure informants that their statements would be used only for the investigation of complaints and for such criminal or disciplinary proceedings as directly followed.

The public interest underlying the present implied undertaking added little if anything to that, giving rise to the basic immunity

claim attaching to the documents. If that immunity ought properly to be overridden in the light of the countervailing public interest arising, that countervailing interest would also outweigh such limited value as still attached to the implied undertaking.

How strong was the countervailing public interest arising in favour of allowing the newspaper to make use of the documents?

If, as both the newspaper and the wider public now had every reason to suspect, those documents appeared to point clearly towards corruption on the part of named police officers, it was surely not to be tolerated that those same officers should continue to make the press in damages while the courts disabled their adversaries from an effective defence by withholding the documents from them.

That would be repugnant alike to justice, to the public and, their Lordships would suggest, to those who gave their cooperation to them, the newspaper's intended witnesses, the very people whose

interest was said to underlie the immunity.

The documents were proposed for use not as a sword but as a shield. That was hardly a floodgate situation.

Their Lordships summarised their reasoning by stating that, given the central objective of that category of public interest immunity as the maintenance of an honourable, disciplined, law-abiding and uncorrupt police force, given the grave public disquiet understandably aroused by proved malpractice on the part of some at least of those who served in the now disbanded West Midlands Serious Crime Squad, given the extensive publicity already attaching to the documents in question following Mr Bromell's successful appeal, it seemed to their Lordships nothing short of absurd to suppose that those who cooperated in the investigation, largely other police officers and court officials, should regret that cooperation, or that future generations of potential witnesses would withhold it, were

the court now to release the documents to the newspaper to enable it to defeat, if it could, an allegedly corrupt claim in damages.

Accordingly, their Lordships varied Mr Bromell's undertaking to allow him to hand over to the newspaper those PCA documents that were incorporated in his appeal bundle; the newspaper, for its part undertaking to use those documents only for the purposes of defending the libel proceedings currently being pursued against it.

The court was not pre-judging any defence of justification. All their Lordships were concerned to ensure was that the newspaper had a proper opportunity of obtaining the evidence it sought so that the grave allegations it made, the same allegations that troubled the Court of Appeal sufficiently to allow Mr Bromell's appeal, could properly be tested in the court.

Justice demanded no less. Solicitors: Oswald Hickson Collier & Co. Holborn; Treasury Solicitor.

Attitude relevant to sentence

Regina v J. O. Sims Ltd

Although an offence under section 2(1) of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 was absolute, the state of mind of the defendant was material to the level of fine which should be imposed.

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division (Lord Justice Lloyd, Mr Justice Tudor Evans and Mr Justice Latham) so held on July 9

in allowing an appeal by J. O. Sims Ltd against a fine of £75,000 imposed in June 1991 at Inner London Sessions (Judge Prendergast) for causing or permitting works to be executed which resulted in damage to a scheduled monument, contrary to section 2(1) of the 1979 Act. A fine of £15,000 was substituted.

MR JUSTICE TUDOR EVANS said that the financial penalty

under section 2(10) of the 1979 Act was left at large. In cases of a deliberate flouting of the law, considered for gauging the proper knowledge that work was being carried out which would damage a scheduled monument, the fine might be very large indeed. That was not this case. On the other hand, there were degrees of negligence which had to be reflected in the level of the fine.

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Advance References

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We are seeing a new approach by some employers to the taking of references. They are requiring what might be called 'advance references' - a reference taken at the interview stage and before an offer is made. Many candidates resent this. They feel exposed. Enquiries are unfocused before they have received any assurance that a job offer is likely to be made. At least with the traditional reference there was a written offer on the table, and one could assume that it would go through unless a reference was downright bad. The 'advance reference' is more like an extension of the interview, and may well be taken up on several candidates simultaneously. It doesn't carry with it the same probability of an eventual appointment.

In the present state of the job market the advance reference will have to be tolerated. Candidates must prepare themselves for it, and have references ready even at first interview stage. Clearly, current employers cannot be approached but the name of a previous employer will be expected.

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RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

Small becomes beautiful

The provincial practices get special treatment in this year's *Legal 500*.
Edward Fennell on the lawyers' Bible

Just in time for the summer holidays the 1992 edition of *The Legal 500* is thudding down this week on partners' desks. Although the book may not make it to beach or poolside it will give many managing partners food for thought as they bid goodbye to their colleagues for the next month.

The Legal 500 has become the Bible of the law business in terms of its size and weight as well as its status. Many, however, will question whether it carries the same authority as the good book. And if so, where are the Apocrypha?

Although it started life in the late 1980s as a guide for job applicants, *The Legal 500* has now fully transcended itself into a buyers' guide for the consumers of legal services.

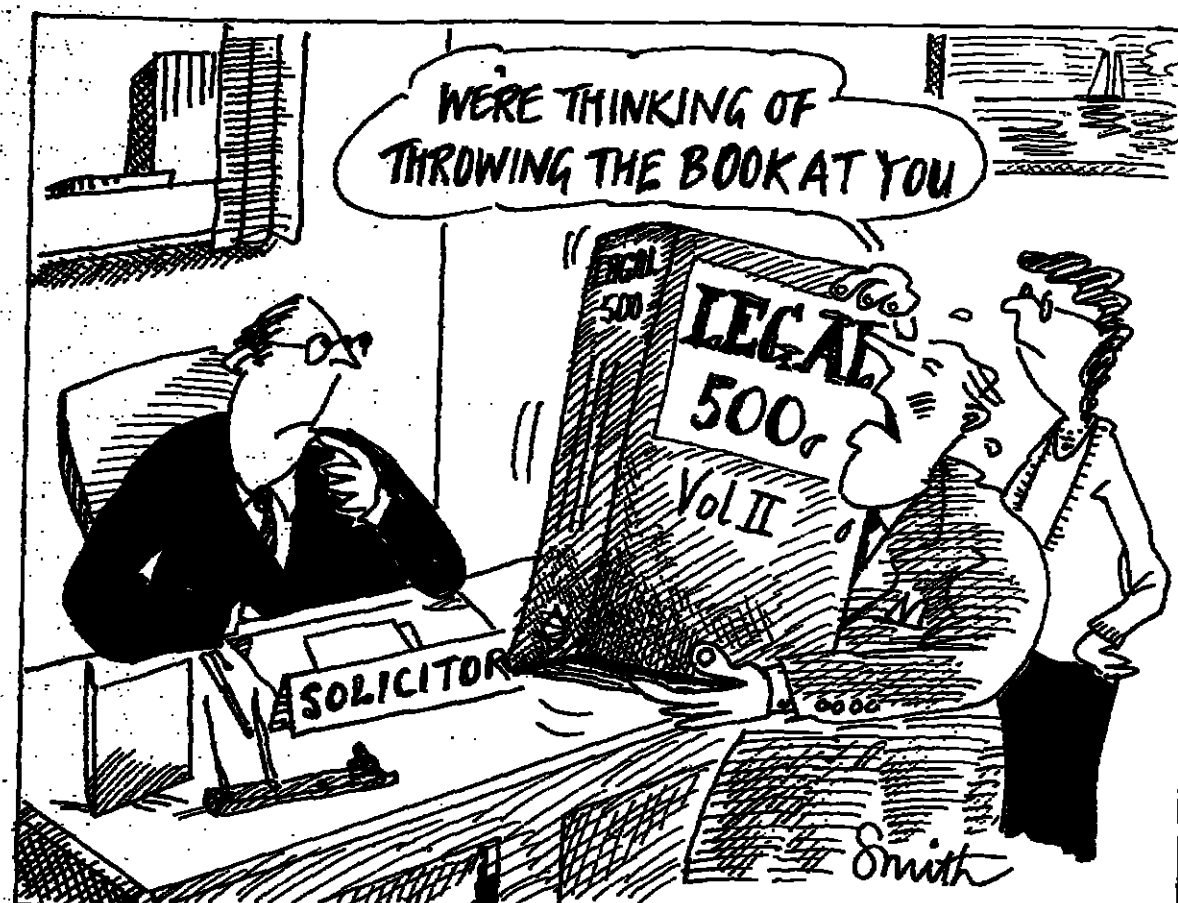
Additionally, in passing its Jehovah-like judgments on law firms and barristers' chambers, this year's edition has concentrated on raising up the erstwhile humble and neglected while admonishing the rich and powerful. In particular, the role and quality of regional firms is given considerable prominence.

"In the real world there is concrete evidence of commercial clients beginning to use provincial firms for work that previously would have stayed in London," comments John Pritchard, the editor. He then goes on to ask:

Most of the respondents declined to give great detail

"Firstly, do you really need to be using a London firm? Secondly, even if you are using a non-London firm, is there a small (specialist) practice with a good name that can do some of the work that you currently place with a major regional firm?" So the pendulum, which in 1988 was swinging so far in favour of large and merged firms, is now well and truly on its return journey. Law firms are contracting. Clients are looking for a more personal service.

The enormous deals of the 1980s have disappeared — perhaps not to be seen again in this millennium. Where is the trend leading?



The answer to that question is simple. It is leading to "Son (or Daughter)" of *The Legal 500*.

For those bowed under the weight of the standard version of *The Legal 500* the appearance this year of *The Legal 500 — Volume Two* will come as a distinct shock.

Not content with asking law firms to yield up their deepest secrets Mr Pritchard has now had the temerity to go direct to individual lawyers within the leading firms and ask them to reveal the truth about their education, their hobbies and the cases with which they have been involved. They have even been asked for passport-style photographs.

So although the usual assessments of the UK's leading law firms will still be the main interest, *Volume Two*, sub-titled *The Lawyers*, will also attract considerable attention. Perhaps wisely the majority of respondents have declined to go into too much detail. From most all we have is a name, a telephone number and a date of admission. Those who have com-

plied fully with Mr Pritchard's request will now have to live with the consequences during the next 12 months.

The rationale for this new dimension to *The Legal 500* is that as clients return to the idea of a personal relationship with a solicitor, it is useful to have a database of personal information about key partners. It must be for

valid this is. However, it may be a high-risk enterprise to give away too much about yourself, at least to the casual browser. What about the photographs? Is there any correlation between looks and legal skills? That is open to debate. What is certain is that already the faces in *The Legal 500* are a treasure-house of sociological and anthropological interests. For a start there is not a black face to be seen. That will come as no surprise. Second, there are relatively few women. Those who do appear are mostly in their thirties — clearly an advance guard of all the rising young female lawyers emerging from the universities.

Almost without exception, they look like lawyers

However, the most striking thing is that, almost without exception, these people look like lawyers. If you ever doubted the reality of professional stereotypes, then rest assured that they do exist and you will find them in *The Legal 500 — Volume Two*.

Inevitably, such a gallery cries out for awards — the doleful, the devious, and the dopey could all be nominated. But in a collection that is otherwise replete with bourgeois respectability there are two snaps suggesting that their subjects might be fun to spend an evening with after dishing the deal of the decade. Let it be revealed that the first Law Times/*Legal 500* "Personality of the Year" awards go to Keith Schilling, of the litigation department at Schilling & Lorn, and Clare Grayson, of the corporate department at Lewis Silkin.

Congratulations. Will your faces now be your fortunes? Perhaps you will let us know.
● *The Legal 500* is available from Legalese, 3 Clifton Road, London W9 1SZ, at £39.

Women hold on to abortion right

An American court decision has political undertones

A recent United States Supreme Court ruling narrowly upheld the constitutional principle that a woman has a fundamental right to end her pregnancy before the fetus is viable. The ruling says more about about the voting pattern of the nine leading judges than about the issue of when life begins.

At issue was Pennsylvania's Abortion Control Act of 1982, which purports to "regulate" abortion with requirements about consent. The court reaffirmed the ruling, which was made in *Roe v Wade* by a five-to-four majority, and invalidated Pennsylvania's provision that a wife must tell her spouse of her intention.

In 1973 the Roe court had held that the constitution protects a woman's right to terminate her pregnancy in its early stages. The rationale was what reproductive rights lawyers call the "trimester framework". This held virtually all state regulation of abortion before the second trimester of pregnancy to be unconstitutional, permitted regulations to protect the woman's health.

But not to further the state's interest in a potential life in the second trimester, and permitted prohibitions during the third trimester where the woman's life or health was not at stake. Advances in neonatal care have since enabled the foetus to survive outside the womb earlier in a pregnancy. Surgical advances have also made later abortions safer. Right-to-life groups, religious leaders and conservatives demanded a decision overruling Roe, citing new circumstances, ethical authorities and a conviction that morally abortion is murder. Women's organisations made equally vocal demands for reproductive freedom.

The controversy even politicised the Senate appointing process. Robert Bork, appointed a justice by President Reagan in 1987, failed to be confirmed after liberals claimed the nominee would relegate women to "back alley" abortions. Justice David Souter, appointed by President

might not want to overrule the precedent set in a watershed decision such as *Roe*.

This left Justice Souter. He had told the Senate of his admiration for Justice John Marshall Harlan, a moderate who had written: "A basic change in the law upon a ground no firmer than a change in our membership invites the popular misconception that this institution is little different from the two political branches of the government."

Had the pro-life President Bush given Justice Souter a litmus test on abortion before appointing him? Justice Souter had emerged as the new intellectual leader of the court's moderate wing. His approach is concerned with the legitimacy of the court as an institution, and, with Roe, his concern was more that an overruling might not be seen as "anything but a surrender to political pressure."

His view of the court as first and foremost a court of law transcended the abortion issue. "Liberty finds no refuge in a jurisprudence of doubt," began the abortion ruling.

The court's power, he reasoned, "lies... in its legitimacy, a product of substance and perception that shows itself in the people's acceptance of the judiciary as fit to determine what the nation's law means and to declare what it demands." Thus, the court found it an institutional "imperative" to adhere to the essence of *Roe*, right or wrong.

What does this portend, particularly for reproductive rights? Justice Blackmun chided the chief justice for a "stunted conception of individual liberty". Noting that the court's approach was "worlds apart" from that of the dissenters, he saw the distance between the two approaches as short — a single vote on the Supreme Court. Meanwhile, reproductive rights are safe in the US, by a narrow margin.

Justice Blackmun and John Paul Stevens were clearly committed to *Roe*. Sandra Day O'Connor, the sole female justice, had been moving to a position that the state may not impose an "undue burden" on a woman's decision before fetal viability.

Anthony Kennedy, thought to be a conservative, was President Reagan's replacement for Bork. However, this tough former federal judge

The Chief Justice was accused by a judge of having a 'stunted conception of individual liberty'

JAMES D. ZIRIN
● The author is a litigator with Breed Abbot & Morgan, a New York law firm.

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Favourites well on course for gold

Britain produce flying start in three-day event

FROM JENNY MACARTHUR
IN BARCELONA

BRITAIN, the favourites for the Olympic three-day event gold medal, made a superb start yesterday when Karen Dixon, on Get Smart, and Mary Thomson, on King William, finished in second and third places at the end of the first day of dressage.

Matthias Beaumann, of Germany, a team gold medal-winner in Seoul four years ago, has a slender lead on Alabaster.

With Richard Walker, on Jacana, lying in twelfth place, Lord Patrick Beresford, Britain's chef d'equipe, was in optimistic mood. "It's a marvellous start. They have all gone superbly and we're still got Ian [Stark] to come," he said.

Stark, the European champion and favourite for the individual gold medal, does his test on Murphy himself today.

With a fitting sense of occasion, Dixon, who replaced Ginny Leng in the team just a



week ago, produced the best test of her career on the 12-year-old Get Smart. They entered the spectacular Olympic arena — set in the hazy blue hills of El Montanya — looking confident and relaxed.

Working hard in the intense heat to keep Get Smart active, she produced a beautifully supple and accurate test. "It was a relief to get back to a walk in that heat," Dixon said. Thomson's King William, going at the end of the day, was less affected by the heat than by the crowds. They burst into applause as she entered the arena, just as she had managed to settle the exuberant King William.

"He felt as if he was about to

take off round the cross-country," Thomson said. She contained him beautifully, allowing him to show off his superb natural paces. Her mark of 47.20 has put her well in contention for an individual medal.

Walker had gone in the comparative cool of early morning and managed to produce a fine test despite a curtailed preparation. "I have never worked in so little before a test," he said.

The first problem he had encountered was the practice arena, which was "rock solid". Rather than risk jarring Jacana, he did the minimum of warming up. He then discovered he had left his jacket behind. It arrived — via a breathless British supporter — seconds before he was due in the arena.

"I knew I was taking a chance having Jacana so fresh," Walker said, "but he turned out to be in a very settled frame of mind."

Though a low mark from Patrick Conolly-Carew, the president of the ground jury, kept his score at 58, Walker is in contention, especially as tomorrow's difficult and big cross-country is likely to reduce the influence of the dressage marks. At the European championships last September, when Walker won the silver medal, he was 22nd after the dressage.

Tomorrow he will go first for Britain — and fifth overall — on the cross-country. He is unworried at being the pathfinder for the team. "It can be an advantage not to have seen anyone go," he said. "You are not put off your route by seeing someone make a mistake."

Little is going to put Beaumann off his chosen route. The Bavarian, aged 29, who is in his third year as German national champion, intends to take all the quick routes tomorrow. Unlike most others, he is not put off by the size of Wolfgang Fels's 33-fence course. "It is not as big as the 1989 European championships at Burghley," he said. New Zealand, Britain's main rivals for the gold medal, suffered a setback yesterday, when their world champion, Blyth Tait, finished in 41st place and left the arena in tears after his horse Messiah had refused to settle.

After the Americans had collected the first two gold medals, the Hungarian champion-a-day factory turned out its best product, Tamas Darnyi, to shatter American confidence. The knock-on effect saw Anita Nall, aged 15, the pre-race favourite from Maryland, beaten into third in the 200 metres breaststroke by Kyoko Iwasaki, only the third Japanese woman swimmer to become an Olympic champion, and Lin Li, of China.

Tamas Darnyi, aged 25, from Budapest, is the Dan O'Brien of the pool, except he went one better than the

will want to cover in under 2min 20sec to feed he can reach the final the following Saturday and do himself justice.

There was encouraging news concerning Derek Redmond, one of Britain's world champions winning 4 x 400 metres relay quarter at the world championship in Tokyo last year. After an indifferent season he has run the fastest 300 metres of his life in training here.

"We have to build up our



Johnson: dream player



Leaping to glory: Trent Dimas, of the United States, in yesterday's gymnastics

Darnyi denies Americans dominance in the pool

FROM CRAIG LORD
IN BARCELONA

ONLY the finest swimmer in the world could stop an American run on gold that dominated the early proceedings in and out of water on the second day on competition here at the Bernat Picornell pool.

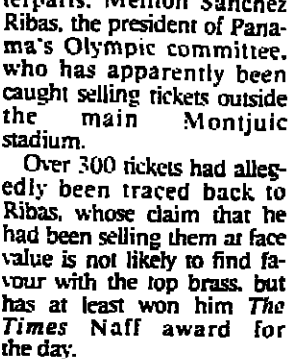
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American decathlete by making it to Spain. In retaining the 400 metres medley title, he stamped his authority on an event he had already made his own. Since 1983 he has won every European, world and Olympic title at the distance. While the winning time was two seconds adrift from his best, Darnyi broke his own Olympic record to beat Eric Namesnik, of the United States, by just over a second in 4min 14.23sec.

A master of tactics, Darnyi's determination and skill only showed with 15 metres to go before the final — freestyle — 100 metres leg. He defiantly looked across the lane rope at the opponent who had shadowed him all the way from the starting block, and changed gear. The turn was majestic.

Darnyi looked again at Namesnik with 25 metres to go. He need not have. The American was left in the wash of Darnyi's sublime leg kick.

It was third time lucky for Morales, aged 27, the Californian born of Cuban parents who took the silver medal at the Los Angeles Olympic Games in the 100 metres butterfly but failed to make the team for Seoul. After holding on to finally live his dream, an Olympic gold medal in that event, Morales went to the phone to call his coach Skip Kenney and burst into tears.

Nicole Haislett's was the United States' other champion, in the 200 metres freestyle, an event in which Karen Pickering, aged 20, of Ipswich finished second in the B final, for tenth overall, in 2min 0.33sec, her best and only 0.64sec off the Commonwealth record of June Croft.

Britain's men finished sixth in the 800 metres freestyle relay in a British record of 7min 22.57sec. The event was won last night by the Unified team in a world record of 7min 11.5sec.

Two competitors unlikely to forget their Olympics are the Turk Ali Riza Bilal, and the Canadian, Murray McCaig, neither of whom completed the course.

McCaig never actually reached the starting line in the sailboarding because he fractured his shin bone when he was knocked off his bicycle by a car.

He might have reported the incident to the local constabulary, but for the fact the vehicle involved was a police car.

Bilal capsized halfway through his heat and had to be plucked out of the water by a rescue launch. Could happen to any sailor, you say. Indeed, but Bilal is a rower.

On the buses

There has been trouble on the Barcelona buses as well, it seems. The organisers have laid on over 700 of them to

Test incidents back up the neutral calls

BY PETER BALL

THE appointment of Dickie Bird and David Shepherd to umpire the decisive fifth Test match at the Oval next month will help to dampen Pakistani disquiet over umpiring this summer. It will not dispel it completely.

Bird and Shepherd are universally regarded as the two outstanding umpires in this country, many would say in the world, and the Pakistan management reacted positively to their appointment. "They are the best two English umpires and are respected the world over," Intikhab Alam said at the team's Leeds hotel yesterday morning.

With a tense, incident-strewn series tied, their appointment for the final Test, which seems certain to be another tight match, is a happy one. Intikhab refused to be drawn by suggestions that they might have stood in some of the previous games, but his expression spoke volumes.

But if this appointment should help matters at the Oval, it has done nothing to defuse the Pakistani conviction that neutral umpires are the best solution to touring teams' endemic paranoia. After the events of the fourth Test, the argument is beginning to look persuasive.

The hostile reception Ken Palmer and Mervyn Kitchen received from a group of Pakistani supporters when they returned to their hotel on Sunday night was inexcusable, but many felt that, on this occasion, the Pakistani team had cause for a feeling of injustice.

The "run-out" of Graham Gooch at a crucial stage in the

second innings, shown on television to be not even a close decision, did nothing to substantiate the professed belief that English umpires are uniquely competent. If that was the only unarguable mistake, one former player of recent vintage insisted that in a county match, with less pressure on them, the same umpires would have given five or six of the leg-before decisions they refused in this Test.

It is not new for touring sides to feel that they are getting the rough end of things, as Intikhab pointed out, but that only adds power to the Pakistani case. "I am more and more convinced that neutral umpires are the only solution," Intikhab said, "and the sooner we reach the decision, the better for all concerned."

Pakistan, themselves, have used neutral umpires for two series, and Khalid Mahmood, the tour manager, said that the evidence of those series and the World Cup supports their argument. While accepting the argument in principle, the International Cricket Council, the international body, has left the decision in the hands of the respective home associations, citing a cost of about £500,000 a year as the main impediment to instituting it officially.

England have always opposed the idea, but with players showing less respect for umpires at all levels and in all countries, the pressure is not likely to decrease.

Simon Stewart, the Derbyshire seam bowler, has been ruled out for the rest of the season with the back problem he has had all summer.

Reid is determined to capture Numan

PETER Reid, the Manchester City manager, yesterday stepped up his efforts to sign Arthur Numan, the Dutch midfielder, from Twente Enschede.

Reid, who had hoped to sign Paul Stewart from Tottenham Hotspur before Stewart agreed to join Liverpool over the weekend, left for Holland to attend a meeting involving Enschede officials, the Dutch FA and the players' union, which is attempting to persuade Numan to remain in Holland.

The players' body believes moving to Manchester would damage the international prospects of Numan, who, at the age of 21, is rated one of the most exciting young players in the country.

City have offered Twente Enschede a fee of £1.5 million but they face competition from the Dutch champions, PSV Eindhoven, who have offered £800,000. Reid refused suggestions that a move abroad

would be against Numan's best interests, saying: "That's nonsense. We would certainly release him for international duty."

He also confirmed that Michael Hughes, the club's Northern Ireland international winger, had been sold to the French club, Strasbourg, for £450,000.

Stewart, meanwhile, was preparing to join Liverpool in a pre-season tour of Norway after undergoing a medical before completing his £2.3 million move to Anfield.

Tottenham have wasted little time in trying to spend Stewart's fee, arranging the purchase of the Nottingham Forest forward, Teddy Sheringham, for £2 million.

Sheringham was yesterday involved in talks about his future with Forest. Ray Houghton completed his £900,000 move from Liverpool to Aston Villa yesterday.

Peter Haddock, of Leeds United, has been forced to retire from the game with injury. Haddock, aged 30, a defender, severely damaged a knee in the Rumbelows Cup semi-final second leg against Manchester United 18 months ago. He has been told to retire by specialists.

The chairman of Derby County, Brian Fearn, yesterday called on the Football League board to resign over the contract it has agreed for the televising of its matches with ITV. Fearn has written to the League's president, Gordon McKay, calling the contract "derisive and disruptive".

S Africa's changing face

SOUTH Africa's return to international rugby union next month will be symbolised by a new badge. The Springbok — the former emblem of the white-dominated South African Rugby Board — is linked with four protea flowers (the protea was the badge and nickname of the former coloured union in South Africa).

South Africa face New Zealand, on August 15, and Australia and France in the next three months before going to Twickenham for a match against England on November 14.

The Twickenham match will be sponsored by Sava and Prosper, which yesterday announced it would underwrite the fixture for £110,000. This brings the company's six-year commitment to English inter-

national rugby union to £3 million.

Jubilant at the arrival in South Africa of New Zealand, the first official touring rugby side in eight years, is being tempered by warnings of impending defeat. "We must prepare ourselves to lose," Danie Craven, president of South African rugby, said, when asked about South Africa's chances in the Test against the All Blacks on August 15.

"Our players are not nearly as fit as the All Blacks or the Wallabies. Our forwards are very weak."

The AR Blacks arrived on Sunday to a tumultuous welcome on the first official visit by a New Zealand team since 1976, when South Africa won the series. Their first match was against Natal on Sunday.

Training partner helps Yates

FROM DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT, IN BARCELONA

MATTHEW Yates, who has spent £7,000 preparing for an Olympics in which he may not compete, has added to his bill by flying a British training partner out here to help with his late scramble to be fit for the 1,500 metres heats on Monday.

Yates, the European indoor champion, stood at the gates of the athletes' village yesterday still uncertain whether he would run after a viral infection which has prevented him

from putting a decent performance in his name in the last two months.

"I am scared of failure," Yates said as he talked of needing a fast time-trial to convince him it would be worth lining up. Richard Harley, a former English Schools champion who is a club-mate of Yates's at Newham and Essex Beagles, has been brought out not only to help with training but to pace a 1,000 metres trial which Yates

will want to cover in under 2min 20sec to feed he can reach the final the following Saturday and do himself justice.

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Counting the cost of using the Olympic symbol

ANDREW LONGMORE

MUCH to the disgust of the organisers, who, of course, detest anything that might smack of exploitation, the Olympic rings have been making a number of unscheduled and illegal appearances in local advertisements over the past few days.

"Do you know why everything is so expensive in Barcelona?" an advertisement for Tossa del Mar, a resort just down the coast, asked viewers of Catalan television channel, TV3. In case it had slipped their minds, up came the Olympic symbol and the answer: "Because everything finishes with five zeros. At Tossa, you will have more fun and pay less."

No sooner had that little gem fallen foul of the Barcelona bigwigs, who have exclusive rights to the symbol, than the Italian clothing manufacturers Benetton — no stranger to the advertising standards authorities in recent months — produced a two-page newspaper ad featuring five giant

rolled-up condoms — fetchingly coloured purple, green, pink and two shades of red — which, in a unique double-whammy, has successfully outraged the majority of the Roman Catholic community and the Olympic committee.

The good news for the organisers is that JWT, the advertising agents, have no intention of repeating their tasteless effort. "It was a one-off for the opening of the Games," a spokesman said, slightly unfortunately.

Out of pocket

IN the midst of all the razzmatazz and the commercialism, spare a thought for one Arben Jorgoni, the president of the Albanian Olympic Committee, who has personally taken out a \$25,000 loan to fund his country's return to the Olympics after 20 years. Jorgoni has no idea of how he

will repay the money. That is tomorrow: today, he is enjoying the emotion of Albania's third appearance in the Olympics, though the start for the eight-strong team was not auspicious.

The weightlifter, Genc Baricki, trapped his fingers in a door and was unable to compete.

"We have to build up our



Johnson: dream player

athletes' dignity before we start thinking about results," Jorgoni said. "For half a century, we have been brainwashed. Now we're trying to embrace democracy. Sport is the way we can strengthen our links with the rest of the world."

Despite being out of pocket, Jorgoni is unlikely to resort to a method fund-raising used by one of his Olympic counterparts, Meliton Sanchez Ribas, the president of Panama's Olympic committee, who has apparently been caught selling tickets outside the main Montjuic stadium.

Over 300 tickets had allegedly been traced back to Ribas, whose claim that he had been selling them at face value is not likely to find favour with the top brass, but has at least won him The Times Naff award for the day.

Watery tales

Two competitors unlikely to forget their Olympics are the Turk Ali Riza Bilal, and the Canadian, Murray McCaig, neither of whom completed the course.

McCaig never actually reached the starting line in the sailboarding because he fractured his shin bone when he was knocked off his bicycle by a car.

He might have reported the incident to the local constabulary, but for the fact the vehicle involved was a police car.

Bilal capsized halfway through his heat and had to be plucked out of the water by a rescue launch. Could happen to any sailor, you say. Indeed, but Bilal is a rower.

On the buses

There has been trouble on the Barcelona buses as well, it seems. The organisers have laid on over 700 of them to

transport competitors and officials to the various Olympic sites.

The one problem is that many of the drivers are from out of town and have not quite grasped the intricate traffic system of the Catalan capital. The fencing event started an hour late because the bus carrying the judges got lost.

"We are doing our best," said an official. "Tomorrow the problems will be solved."

Manana.

Of course.

Wild thing

QUOTE of the day comes from Charles Bartley, shaven-headed member of Magic Johnson's American dream basketball team, who was asked why he had elbowed an Angolan during the Americans opening match. "He hit me. I hit him," he replied. "You guys wouldn't understand. It's a ghetto thing."

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Should more
women have
their children
in their teens?

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Privacy: does
the Mellor
case warrant
press reform?



LIFE & TIMES

TUESDAY JULY 28 1992

Terrific show, shame about the music

Each superstar's tour has to be more super than the last, each special effect more special. As Michael Jackson flies into town, David Sinclair wonders what happened to musical innovation

If there were a computerised index of rock stars along the lines of those which determine the current world ranking of tennis players and cricketers, then Michael Jackson would hold the No 1 position by a comfortable margin.

With his frail figure, his twinkling, frightened eyes and a voice which sounds as if its tone was frozen at the age of puberty, he may seem an unlikely candidate for the self-styled title of "King of Pop". But in an industry where multi-million superlatives have become commonplace, Jackson remains top dog by virtually any yardstick you care to use: record sales, concert grosses, royalty advances, personal wealth, column inches, TV hours, corporate sponsorship — you name it and Jackson is getting more of it than anyone else.

His *Dangerous* tour, which reaches England on Thursday, is a monstrous affair. It is taking a quarter of a year to service the stadiums of Europe after which it will push off to Asia, Australia and eventually North and Latin America. Traversing continents like some unimaginably huge global circus, it supports an entourage of roughly 235 people who are responsible for about 1,000 tons of equipment including explosives, lasers, a multi-level, hydraulically-operated stage and enough electrical generating capacity to light a small town. Ticket receipts from his shows at Wembley Stadium alone will be comfortably in excess of \$8 million.

But is it any good? The fact is that the gargantuan logistics of Jackson's show, and of others like it, have both obscured and contributed to the creative snail which is now besetting rock's premier league of superstars. Apart from one breathtaking trick at the end, when Jackson, or more probably a look-alike stunt man, straps on a jet-pack and takes off into the sky above the front of the stage, there is little in the *Dangerous* show that Jackson has not already done on his *Bad* tour of 1987-89.

True, there is a new troupe of computerised dancing skeletons to accompany the "Thriller" routine; and there is a pink, winged "angel" which floats down from the rafters to join Jackson during "Will You Be There?"; and there is a giant inflatable globe which wobbles tumesciently in the middle of the stage while a choir of children sings the pathetic chorus of "Heal The World". But these are little more than minor adjustments to the window dressing.

The rest of it is all too familiar: the "magic" tricks where he disappears in a puff of smoke to reappear in a different part of the stage, the cherry picker crane hoisting him above the heads of the crowd during "Beat It", the fedora hats and silhouetted gunfight at the end of "Smooth Criminal", the ghoul costumes donned during "Thriller" and the moonwalking dance steps of "Billie Jean". These are all stock



Prince: getting no better

routines, pushbutton effects to which the crowd responds with Pavlovian enthusiasm.

Musically, the lack of innovation is even more pronounced. On the opening night of the tour last month in Munich, Jackson performed only four songs from the album which he is ostensibly on the road to promote — *Dangerous*. The rest of the two-and-a-half hour set was comprised entirely of old material, and it is hard to escape the conclusion that for all the theatrical and statistical hyperbole, the *Dangerous* tour is nothing more than a stylish rehash of past glories.

The fact is that Jackson has reached the limits of his artistic and commercial capabilities and is now bouncing along at the top of a very high career curve. He is not the only one.

It has been generally assumed since Live Aid, if not before, that rock acts evolve like national economies or multi-national corporations, constantly achieving year-on-year growth, or else falling by the wayside as their competitors take over. But inevitably, the idea that every tour should be bigger and better than the one before, and that every album should represent a new pinnacle of achievement has proved impossible to maintain. To judge by this summer's bumper crop of megastar shows, the biggest names in rock have reached the ceiling of their live achievements. There is nowhere left for them to go.

Perhaps it is no coincidence, then, that several such acts have retreated from playing stadiums, at least for the time being. In London, Prince and U2 opted instead for the

Earls Court indoor arena, still a vast and forbidding prospect with a capacity of 18,000, while Bruce Springsteen and Dire Straits went for the relative intimacy of the 12,000-capacity Wembley Arena. Yet apart from U2's much-lauded Zoo TV show — a wily, multi-media extravaganza which somehow managed to transcend the air-hangar ambience and rogue acoustic of Earls Court — these shows have proved disappointing.

Dire Straits was a predictable yawn, and there was a general consensus that Prince failed to equal the outstanding achievements of his *Lovesey* tour of 1988 or even his soul revue tour of 1986 with *The Revolution*.

Springsteen, having replaced his long-serving E Street Band with an anonymous gang of hired guns, was clearly operating under par, so much so that some of his most ardent fans deliberately avoided going to see him at Wembley, while others were so dismayed with the performance that they left during the interval.

Elton John and Eric Clapton's shows at Wembley Stadium were not a great deal more inspiring. Clapton is on a roll just now and proved himself surprisingly well equipped to project to the furthest reaches of the ground with the searing emotion of his guitar solos, but he offered little beyond a polished recap of his greatest hits and frankly no one expected anything more. Elton John was utterly ineffectual, playing in broad daylight during the first two shows of a three-night residency, and finding his bouncy pop tunes and ponderous ballads alike quite unequal to the task of stamping a mark on the event.

Largely thanks to the practicalities of the stadium environment, which impose heavy demands on performers while setting narrow limits on what it is possible to achieve, first-division rock has reached an impasse as a live phenomenon.

The most obvious casualty of the stadium aesthetic is spontaneity. With complicated props, synchronised pyrotechnics and vast, computerised lighting rigs all operating according to a series of carefully-planned, pre-arranged cues, there is no opportunity for the slightest deviation from rigidly organised song arrangements and running order. Subtlety is also lost since most nuances are lost on the great majority of those in the audience for whom the performer is just a loudly-amplified blip in the distance.

In the case of Michael Jackson's show, the complex, split-second dance routines and the gentle inflections of his ballads are wasted on about 85 per cent of the crowd. The same was true of Madonna's last shows here in 1990, while the most disastrous miscalculation was surely David Bowie's *Glass Spider*



King of Pop: Michael Jackson's bubble grows ever bigger, but his latest extravaganza is dangerously short on fresh thinking

tour of 1987, a fiddly, arty and expensive production which failed to project much beyond the first few rows.

The acts which thrive in stadiums are those which exhibit unabashed showmanship and a broad streak of brutality. Heavy rock groups like AC/DC, Iron Maiden, Def Leppard and ZZ Top, whose trade is to deafen and dazzle, have no problems performing in the great outdoors. Guns N' Roses are one of the few acts to arrive in London this summer with a show that was a substantial improvement on the time before.

Queen, with their blockbuster riffs, anthemic choruses and Freddie Mercury's barnstorming personality, were masters of the big event — as they demonstrated to such devastating effect at Live Aid — while the Rolling Stones have forgotten what it is like to play anywhere smaller. Arguably the greatest stadium act in the world is Pink Floyd, a band which although personally anonymous, specialises in creating sound and spectacle on a panoramic scale.

But these people are experts in constructing a particular sort of grandiose entertainment and should be recognised as such. For a band like Simply Red to play

outdoor shows purely because they have sold enough records to create a demand for the tickets adds nothing to our understanding or enjoyment of their music.

Musically, there is nothing innovative or creative or even especially imaginative about most stadium performances. The crowds that turn up to swoon in the crush at the front, punch the air during the loud bits and hold their cigarette lighters aloft at the start of the slow numbers are taking part in a ceremony that has little to do with the finer values of music. Rather, the event is a communal celebration of bigness and loudness with a *devotional undercurrent* that verges on the religious.

Like the Church of England, rock's original hard core of believers has broadened to encompass the great mass of the population. But the faith has become so watered down in the process that it has lost most of its meaning. For those who were brought up with the idea that rock was something more than a mass-marketed commodity, there is a nagging feeling that something has gone wrong. Hasn't this production line of superstars with their corporate sponsors, personal stylists, special effects technicians and fleets of juggernauts

turned the music itself into a rather hollow ritual?

When Michael Jackson appears on stage at Wembley on Thursday, heralded by a thunderously loud rendition of *Carmine Caruso* before materialising like some sort of alien chrysalis out of a shower of golden sparks, the world's biggest superstar will be deploying all the resources at his disposal in defence of his championship title. This will entail singing, dancing, lights, noise, several costume changes and

perhaps even the odd glimpse of a musician. As an occasion it will be something for his fans to remember, but the music itself will be little more than the glue that binds it all together.

TOMORROW

Virginia Ironside on dealing with a parent's death



A kiss is just a political barbed-wire fence

All this kissing has got to stop. As Colonel Muriel Vole-Stranger in *Monty Python* would say, it has all become very silly. Last week, we saw the corporate or party kiss in its most elaborately theatrical guise. Emerging before the cameras on the terrace of the House of Commons after the election of the shadow cabinet, Margaret Beckett kissed Harriet Harman. She kissed Majorie Mowham, who kissed Ann Clwyd. They all kissed each other. Then John Smith kissed them all.

Round and round went the smooch *de politesse*, lips tightly puckered, cheeks proffered, hips and buttocks pushed firmly back, lest any physical touch be misinterpreted as a sign of intimacy or desire. This party kiss, after all, is not a display of warm affection, still less of unfettered love. It is a sign of belonging with each other, an escutcheon which declares exclusive membership.

The kiss which was going round that circle — whose members are elected to represent the interests of the poor, the weak, the underprivileged, the unemployed — was identical in its meaning to the kiss which seals off the Royal Enclosure at Ascot. It says, "Our circle is closed and we belong within it."

Everybody else can go and jump off Westminster Bridge."

The sight of all that kissing made me feel so queasy, I had to go to bed early and dream of an age when British people kissed each other only if they were connected by the most powerful personal affections and/or family ties. Can you imagine that Ramsay MacDonald ever kissed Beatrice Webb? Did Clement Attlee kiss Bessie Braddock? (We may wonder, come to think of it, if any of those individuals ever kissed those to whom they were joined in marriage, except at the moment when the joining was done.) There's no telling where the kissing might stop in the Labour Party today: we might see Ron Todd kissing Clare Short, Dennis Skinner might kiss Jo Richardson. I shan't go on. There may not be a stomach in England strong enough to take these thoughts at breakfast.

People who don't even like each other, who may harbour the most bilious loathings and resentments towards each other, now feel obliged, on ceremonial occasions, to suck face. The ceremony need not be unique or memorable. It may mark nothing more exceptional than the act of getting up in the morning and going to work.

In a Washington hotel one

MID LIFE
Neil Lyndon proffers
his cheek, purses
his lips and snarls



morning, I saw all the directors of an American corporation and their wives exchanging kisses before breakfast, having danced an identical minuet only eight hours earlier when they went to bed. I knew for a fact that every one of them hated and resented each other so violently that they would rather have stuck a stiletto through each fur cape and worsted jacket than kiss those cheeks. There they were, however,

greeting each other as if they had arrived at a family wedding.

All this corporate or party kissing of covert enemies debases and degrades the celebratory kissing of loving friends and reconciled family feuders which ought to be reserved for major occasions, such as funerals and wedding parties.

Weddings are the best and truest of all kissing ceremonies. I don't know how much pleasure the bride gets from submitting to a kiss from every man in the place but the groom, in my sweet memory, may have the day of his life. Kissed with true affection by all those lovely women, smeared from brow to chin by their lipstick and doused in their scents, the groom goes into the embrace of monogamy fuddled with the reassurance that he is loved and desired by every woman in his world.

At my wedding, I was taken aside by one lady who gave me a kiss which clung to the extreme limits of ceremonial respectability and whispered that she was wearing black underwear. I couldn't think why she was telling me. The burden of the message only hit me after about three weeks, since when its memory has been a consolation and delight upon which I shall warm myself in the geriatric ward.

I must be getting old. All this

impersonal and footling kissing irritates me. At a party two weeks ago, a woman came up to me, pointing to each of her (barely detectable) cheekbones for a peck. Though we detested each other for the best part of 20 years and she recently did a direct injury to one of my friends, I duly delivered the pecks *de politesse*. Then her companion demanded to be kissed also. Strike me if I didn't give in and plant my dry lips on his sallow and unshaven cheek. Pass the sickbag, Mildred: I die for shame.

If distant acquaintances, colleagues and cordial enemies need to signify some mannerly acknowledgment of each other's presence, why the hell can't they shake hands? Or bow? Or wink, waggle their ears or raise a trouser-leg? Why do they have to kiss? How do they greet the ones they love? Presumably, they do it with the curt and familial "I'm back" and the well-rehearsed story silence.

We may, in truth, have reached the point where the kiss is a contradiction of love. Those who love you may be distinguished from those who don't by this measure: the ones who love you don't expect to exchange kisses every time you set eyes on each other. Mr Smith and his circle of kissers might do well to keep this in mind.

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Spokesperson for the women's team

While browsing in the foyer of a small theatre in Hamburg the actress Eleanor Bron was struck by an exhibition of an eclectic group of women. The Virgin Mary was featured next to Baader-Meinhof terrorist Gudrun Ensslin; Clytemnestra rubbed shoulders with Desdemona, and Martin Luther's wife Katharina stared from beneath her wimple at the craggy profile of the great poet Sappho.

"Different as they — some were real, some fictitious — were," says Bron, "all of the women were known to me. Some were familiar because of their association with a more famous man; others were barely known because of a different kind of association with a more famous man — they were mere wives or lovers — and yet others, although famous in their own right, were, in their lifetime, like the ideal Victorian child, glimpsed but not heard."

The photographs referred to a stage production based on a book, *Desdemona If You Had Only Spoken*, by the German writer Christine Bruckner. The 71-year-old Bruckner is well known in her native country as an award-winning novelist and newspaper columnist. She will shortly be better known in Britain, for Bron has just completed a translation of Bruckner's book for publishers Virago.

Desdemona If You Had Only Spoken takes the form of 11 imagined monologues. All are spoken by women whose lives have been irrevocably altered by men. The premise of Bruckner's book is that they all now have an awful lot to say back to those men. Bruckner wanted to challenge the traditional image of the women based upon the words attributed to them by historical or literary texts. She set out to

Eleanor Bron is performing monologues by famous women of history, reports Ellen Cranitch

explore what they might really have said if their voices had been allowed free rein. Bron, entranced by the idea, was an eager ally.

Each of the speeches is addressed to a listener, usually a husband or lover. His personality is evoked as vividly as the words of Katharina Luther, which you can almost see

speaking out at last, now. Moreover, each monologue is a self-contained dramatic entity. The significant historical details are woven into the fabric of the text and the dramatic context is always easy to grasp. We do not need to have heard of the poet Goethe's wife Christiane to appreciate her drunken tirade; the gutsy woman of powerful character and low birth, who fights the condescension of respectable ladies with the knowledge that only she can provide her man with what he really wants, is

'Although the women are often angry, they do not simply harangue men'

easy to understand. Bron finds the book constantly surprising. "The speeches never go quite where you expect, due to Bruckner's great gift for allowing her imagination to float freely on the surface of hard fact." It comes as a surprise, for example, that Sappho is depicted pining after a ferryman.

One of Bron's favourite pieces is the speech of Laura, whom the poet Petrarch addresses in his famous love sonnets. It is Bruckner's choice of Laura's age and situation that Bron finds particularly unusual and moving. The thoughtless ambition of Petrarch emerges as Laura speaks. She is now old and dying of the plague in Avignon. He is hundreds of miles away, a celebrity in Rome. Drifting in and out of delirium

she recalls the ecstasy of the love she first felt for him, then, voice dripping with cynicism, reflects on the cruel contrast between the "pure" Laura he immortalised, and her present real self, a mind losing its hold on reality, a body oozing pus and riddled with disease.

The speaker that Bron felt least interest in, initially, was the Virgin Mary, whom the actress had portrayed in the film *The Day That Christ Died*. But as she translated Mary's speech, Bron's feelings altered: "Bruckner's Mary was very different to the one I had come to know, much older, very bewildered, very vulnerable."

Concurrent with her acting career, Bron has managed to write two books of her own. But although she read French and German at Cambridge University, this is her first foray into translation. She describes the task as "a curious and pleasing evasion. It doesn't require the same quality of time and concentration that writing from scratch does. You don't have to sit down before a lonely blank sheet."

One of the pleasures of the enterprise has been the way that struggling with translating literary text has sparked off ideas for how best to animate the women she wished to portray on stage. The German word "hell" used by Katharina Luther about herself means both light and clever. Bron struck upon "canny" then started thinking that she could perhaps give Luther's wife — an ex-nun — sober Presbyterian tones. So Bron performs Katharina with a Glasgow accent "modelled on my mother, who grew up there, although I hope I won't come to regret this when I am performing in Edinburgh."

Despite the geographical



Eleanor Bron as Christiane, wife of Goethe. Photograph by Charles Hopkinson

and chronological gulf between Christine Bruckner and Eleanor Bron — Bruckner was born in 1921 and lived a life of great upheaval under the Nazi regime. Bron was born some 20 years later into a liberal London home — both embrace the same kind of feminism. "Bruckner sees and denounces men's faults but doesn't want to abolish the entire breed," says Bron. "She is humanist, not separatist."

"One of the reasons I wanted to translate the work is because I sympathise with its viewpoint. For Bruckner, both men and women are fallible. The difference is, the women know it."

● *Desdemona If You Had Only Spoken* is published by Virago on Monday. Eleanor Bron will appear at the Pleasance, Edinburgh, (Fringe Festival box office: 031-226 5257) from August 13 to September 5.

ARTS BRIEF

Showing optimism

UNDETERRED by the faltering track record of new musicals in the West End, three are opening in the autumn. Gillian Lynne is to present *Valentine's Day*, adapted by Benny Green and David William from Shaw's *You Never Can Tell*. It is scheduled to open at The Globe, Shaftesbury Avenue, on September 17 with Edward Petherbridge starring. Then on October 15, almost next door at the Queen's, Tony Slattery opens in *Radio Times*, set in the 1940s and bedecked with Noel Gay numbers such as "Run, Rabbit, Run" and "There's Something About a Soldier". A week later comes *Which Witch*, billed as an "operamusical", which opens on October 22 at the Piccadilly.

Meanwhile, another Lionel Bart musical is to be revived by the National Youth Theatre in an attempt to repeat its success of two years ago with *Bilz!*. *Maggie May*, which first opened in the West End 28 years ago, is returning and opens at the Royal on September 1 for three weeks. Again, Ed Wilson will direct and David Togouri will do the musical staging.

Last chance

EVEN those fed up with Spanish hype should make room for Declan Donnellan's stirring production of Lope de Vega's most famous play, *Fuente Ovejuna*, which dramatises the insurrection of an obscure village against a tyrannical overlord. Strong and passionate performances from Rachel Joyce, as a violated bride, James Laurenson, as the villainous lord, and Clive Rowe, as a lovable loudmouth, survive from the original 1989 production. But it is the village itself which takes centre stage. The last performances are at the Olivier (071-928 2252), tonight, tomorrow and on Thursday.

Back in the Ice Age, which was really a series of ice ages, north London was, from time to time, icy. Nowadays, the icest moments in swathes of north London tend to come when the unwitting serve meat for dinner and are rewarded with a four-course lecture on man's inhumanity to animal, often supported by clauses beginning "did you see...?" as some right-on television programme is cited in defence of the notion that eating meat should be criminalised.

Well, did you see Antenna: The Beastly Truth (BBC 2) last night? The latest in this excellent and provocative series featured Stephen Budiansky, who looked right-on enough (beard, jeans) but who had the nerve to advance the notion that the domestication

Life, as given and taken

of animals served them at least as well as it has served us. Budiansky is a science writer with *US News & World Report* in Washington DC and he also runs a farm outside the city. This gives him a useful combination of sources, in pure science and observed behaviour, the latter as important as the former, because the people who live closest to animals tend to be least obsessed about their "rights".

Budiansky's thesis is that the domestication of animals was an evolutionary process not a revolutionary one, a gradual shift in inter-dependency rather than an inspired decision by a committee of cave-men who had suddenly become fed up with picking plants and grinding seeds. The Ice Age was a key factor, because it wiped out many species and forcibly altered the behaviour of those that could adapt. As man started to farm, many animals turned from hunt-or-be-hunted to raiding farms for their food, thus coming within the ambit of mankind.

As Budiansky said, without domestication cattle would now be extinct (wild cattle are) and the horse would almost certainly have gone the same

TELEVISION REVIEW

way. The reward for the animals has been a protected environment and guaranteed supplies of food, the penalty has been restricted freedom and, sometimes, death. But the domestic animals we kill are bred for the purpose, therefore without the purpose they would not have had a life.

There are, obviously, some inconvenient questions lurking here. The programme rightly ignored them: domestication of animals in the service of humans is a big enough subject without getting into the undeniable horrors of slaughter and cruel exploitation in order to test mascara.

Budiansky presented some fascinating technical evidence, especially from an archaeological site in northern Syria, where domestication began, showing how sheep and goats were slowly assimilated into the human community over some 2,000 years, starting 11,000 years ago.

Yet one of the most telling points was made by the director of the Washington National Zoo. We are alleged to want more "natural" zoos, yet to give tigers a natural environment would involve letting them kill other animals before our eyes. This the public will not accept. We want animals cuddly (living) or succulent (dead). In between there is a reality we will not confront.

PETER BARNARD

Humour baits this hook

Trailing awards and acclaim, DV8 Physical Theatre brings us its latest piece, *Strange Fish*. If anyone thought the company could not equal its two previous successes, *Dead Dreams of Monochrome Men* and *If Only*, they were wrong. *Strange Fish* is the best yet.

The piece remains faithful to DV8's psychological preoccupations, depicting loneliness and longing, expectation and disappointment; but it further develops the group's diversity of means. You do not have to be a contemporary dance aficionado to enjoy *Strange Fish*. DV8 has always dissolved the boundaries between the arts, and never more than here.

Melanie Pappenheim, who begins and ends the piece as a female Christ on the cross, is a singer, not a dancer. Diana Payne-Myers, aged 64, was selected because DV8's director, Lloyd Newson, wanted to explore the potential of older performers. Nigel Charnock trained as an actor as well as a dancer, and gets to display his considerable verbal skills. A nervous silhouette topped by a shock of platinum hair, he enters with a manic patter of greetings that signals a desperate desire for affection, but

Nadine Meisner finds DV8 Physical Theatre going from strength to strength with a new work

only succeeds in clearing the space around him.

Newson would like to see the company expand more into words. "Language", he believes, "facilitates certain types of movement which by themselves would be unacceptable." Without the words, Charnock's super-chummy sequence would look ridiculous. But because "the literalness of words can be limiting," mere sounds suggesting mood are sometimes preferable. Consequently, Pappenheim sings in English spelt backwards and in Latin.

Strange Fish has a lighter touch than the emotionally devastating *Dead Dreams of Monochrome Men*; although *Strange Fish* continues to excavate the bleaker recesses of the human soul, it also brings humour to the fore. Why this brighter palette? "The way we'd done things before was so personal and direct that we

were burning ourselves out," explains Newson. "We needed a more stylised approach that could make us enjoy creating again and give us another perspective."

The set, by Peter J. Davison, and lighting by Steve Whitson, are DV8's most elaborate to date, but they are not window-dressing. Newson understands the danger of work becoming "trapped in design, like the designer opera we now have. People have become caught in a visual web without substance."

Edges and openings that asymmetrically cover a brown back wall provide the cast with vantage points, entrances and chances to exhibit their physical risk-taking. Water features prominently, producing stunning effects: it cascades on to the stage and appears under broken floorboards; it is laden with symbolism. The cast return to the water, leaving Wendy Houston as sole survivor in a desolate, disintegrated world. Houston brings all her sombre clowning to the role. Demanding and manipulative, she craves friendship like Charnock, but only succeeds in alienating everyone. Totally alone, she has lost belief in everything. She climbs up to the female Christ and sucks the breath out of her, so that the figure crumples up and slithers down grotesquely.

Newson derides the piece as anti-religious; it could suggest that some faith is better than none at all. He accepts that people might be horrified at seeing a semi-naked woman as Christ. "But we auditioned men and women, black and white," he says, "and took the best voice and it happened to be a woman."

● *Strange Fish* is at Riverside Studios, Crisp Road, London W6 (081-748 3354), from tomorrow until August 6.



Lauren Potter of DV8 Physical Theatre in *Strange Fish*



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OPENS 20 OCTOBER

4 PASSPORT TO FRANCE

Staying close to the subject

Away from the four-star hotels, a wide range of accommodation allows Britons to live the *vie française*. Robin Neillands reports



The first French phrase most visitors learn is probably *Vive la France!* This is simply because France is different from Britain and the British from the French. This phrase reflects the fact that the French always seem spoilt for choice. Travellers find that the great range of choices available is one of the attractions of a visit to France. This variety extends to almost every facet of life, from the food and the climate to the accents and the architecture, but the visitor will notice it most in the hotels. France has a great many hotels, but they are just the tip of the accommodation iceberg. Shop around among the holiday brochures and a great range of accommodation, at a great range of prices, lies waiting for the visitor. The choice extends from five-star Relais-et-Châteaux hotels and the plush conference and golf hang-outs of the international business community down through a range of smaller, user-friendly properties to rural cottages, *gîtes d'étape*, mountain *abris* and youth hostels.

The theme that runs through the accommodation network as the price falls is an ever-closer acquaintance with the French. Those who love France but can do without the natives should stay in four-star properties where English is the lingua franca, the cuisine is frequently bland, and the locals are noticeable by their absence. As you move down the food chain, so the French become more obvious and the foreigners fade away. Those who have fed at home when abroad will be glad about this. The same rule applies to the language. Stay in the Hôtel Swiss at Cap d'Antibes or along the Côte Fleurie, and English will be the common tongue, even for the waiters. Opt instead for two weeks in one of those rural properties now available for rent in a village of the Midi, and a working knowledge of French becomes highly desirable if not necessary.

The French have a well-structured hotel industry: in this area, as elsewhere, they manage these things better. French hotels are graded from one to four-star, and a room at a typical, comfortable two-star hotel currently costs between

£25 and £40 a night. This is for the room, not per person, and the price will vary with the season and the location. It does not include breakfast but does include service, and as a rule those who avoid the haunts of the glitterati will pay perceptibly less for their hotel room in France than they would for something similar in England.

The backbone of the French hotel network is the Logis de France, the world's largest hotel consortium. The Logis currently numbers more than 4,000 privately run hotels in the countryside, and the Logis yearbook is an essential tool for those who like roaming in the back country. The British are the most frequent

'Given a smile and a spot of French, I have known this hospitality to extend to drinks on the terrace and a swim in the family pool'

foreign users of the Logis facilities, and the guide is launched in Britain every year with considerable flourish, including a dinner cooked by Logis chefs, who own their own hotels in France.

This yearbook lists all the hotels, guarantees their prices, and gives full location and booking details. As their contribution to French culture, the Logis consortium also runs an annual nationwide cookery competition, *La Cuisine du Terroir*, for its members. The aim is to combat blandness and encourage the appearance of local dishes on Logis menus.

The winners are... Logis guide, so this summer devoted Francophiles will be flocking to M. Collais's Hôtel de la Poste in Falaise, winner of the Basse-Normandie heat, or to the Delfontaines' Hôtel de la Terrasse

at Varengeville-sur-Mer, the winner for Haute Normandie or, if heading south from the Loire, to M. Jeanron's Hôtel du Cheval Noir at Argenton-sur-Creuse. The current outright winner of the *Cuisine du Terroir* was the Hôtel du Faude, at Lapoutroie in Alsace, which will no doubt be booked out for the rest of the year.

The Logis guide is available from the French Government Tourist Office (FGTO). A number of Logis hotels can be booked in the UK through the Logis Stop service offered by the Gîtes de France office in London. The FGTO also operates a video desk service for personal callers to its Piccadilly offices, where there are three terminals for selecting hotels all over France.

Moving on from the hotel trade, more and more Francophiles are opting for bed-and-breakfast accommodation. The pure bed and breakfast in France is referred to as *chambre d'hôte*, which means "coffee and a quilt", and describes exactly what you get: a bed for the night and a continental breakfast. Given a smile and a spot of French, I have known this hospitality extend to drinks on the terrace and a swim in the family pool.

The other version of bed and breakfast is the *chambre d'hôte*, or guest room, which can, in fact, be more elaborate. On a recent visit to Normandy, four of us stayed in a village *chambre d'hôte* and had dinner with a choice of wine, bed and breakfast and a lot of marmoset's Calvados for about £27 a head. Brittany Ferries are now offering *chambres d'hôtes* week-ends in Normandy at prices from £61 for two nights including the return ferry crossing with car.

More and more French housewives, particularly on farms and in the villages, are opening up the spare bedrooms and turning them into *chambres d'hôtes*. They can be found quite easily, from their own signposts in the countryside or by asking at the village tourist office or *syndicat d'initiative*, while a number of holiday companies are offering *chambres d'hôtes* as part of their holiday package, an alternative to more costly accommodation. The standard is usually high and always adequate, and the home-cooked food can be delicious, with fresh produce from the farmer's fields, garden and vineyard.



Off the beaten track: a farm chateau in the Dordogne, complete with geese, makes the perfect setting for a *chambre d'hôte* holiday

Here, again, it may help if someone speaks a little French, but if not the local children are usually brought in to display their English.

Moving on to the self-catering option, the choice again is vast. Most of those thousands of people who bought a little place in France are now letting it for part of the year, if only to defray the cost of upkeep, and one of these can be booked for £80 to £100 per head a week, depending on the location, facilities and season. Brittany Ferries has recently introduced a scheme to help its French-property-owning passengers rent their cottages, and the classified sections of this paper are full of advertisements from people with property to let.

Those who like to live the *vie française*, if only for a couple of weeks, can rent a *gîte*. A *gîte* is

really a small country cottage, but the term can now cover everything from a village house to a converted barn or half a small chateau. *Gîtes* are usually found on farms, where staff accommodation is being renovated, furnished and turned over for holiday letting, often at attractive prices.

The *gîte* system is now so well organised that there is an official Gîtes de France booking service operating from the French tourist offices in Piccadilly. To obtain the fully illustrated handbook, giving details of all the properties, it is necessary to pay a £3 registration fee. Rental charges average from £90 to £150 a week for a property sleeping four to six people. There is a certain amount of networking between all these bodies, and apart

from running the Logis Stop service for Logis hotels, the Gîtes de France service can also book *chambres d'hôtes* and offer vehicle insurance and reduced rates for Channel crossings.

A *gîte de France* should not be confused with a *gîte d'étape*, although both are frequently found in farms and villages. A *gîte d'étape* is best imagined as an unmanned youth hostel or simple shelter, set up to provide accommodation for outdoor lovers. They are listed in the footpath guides and are normally reserved for walkers, cyclists, horse riders and skiers crossing France along the *grandes randonnées*.

Some *gîtes d'étape* are almost luxurious. I have stayed in *gîtes* with fodder and stabling for horses, dawning tables for cross-country skis or secure racks for the cycles. As a

basic provision they will have bunks, showers and cooking facilities. The key is usually kept by a gardener at the nearest house or the *syndicat d'initiative*, and the current price will be about £3 to £5 a night.

High in the hills or mountains, the most common form of shelter is the mountain hut or *abri*, which is usually primitive but looks good when the mist is down or the rain is falling. Details can be obtained locally from the Bureau des Guides or the tourist office. France is not over-supplied with youth hostels, which are quite rare outside the main towns.

The traveller seeking accommodation in France is clearly spoilt for choice, from four-star luxury to mountain-hut simplicity. It all depends on what you want and how much you are prepared to pay.

WHERE TO GET HELP WITH ACCOMMODATION

THE French Government Tourist Office (FGTO) is at 178 Piccadilly, London W1V 0AL. The Logis de France yearbook and guide can be purchased from the FGTO, £6.50 for personal callers, £7.50 by post (make cheques payable to the Maison de France). The Gîtes de France office is at the same address, phone 071 493 3480. The Relais-et-Châteaux guide can also be obtained from the FGTO (£4 personal callers, £5 by post).

A full range of advance-booking facilities through direct-dial telephones is available to personal callers at the FGTO through a service independent of the FGTO staff.

Holiday companies offering holidays in France include: Chateau-hotel accommodations: Chateau Accueil, Henley-on-

Thames, phone 0491 578803; La Vie de Chateau, Paris (1) 45 53 56 00.

Gîtes and bed and breakfast: Vacances en Campagne, 07987 433; VFB Holidays, 0242 580187; Brittany Ferries, 0705 827701; Meon Villas, 0730 61924; Sally Holidays, 071 355 2266; Maison Vacances, 081 540 9680; Aller France, 0903 742345; B & B Abroad, 0689 855538; French Life, 0532 390077; La France des Villages, 0449 737678; P & O European Ferries, 0304 203388.

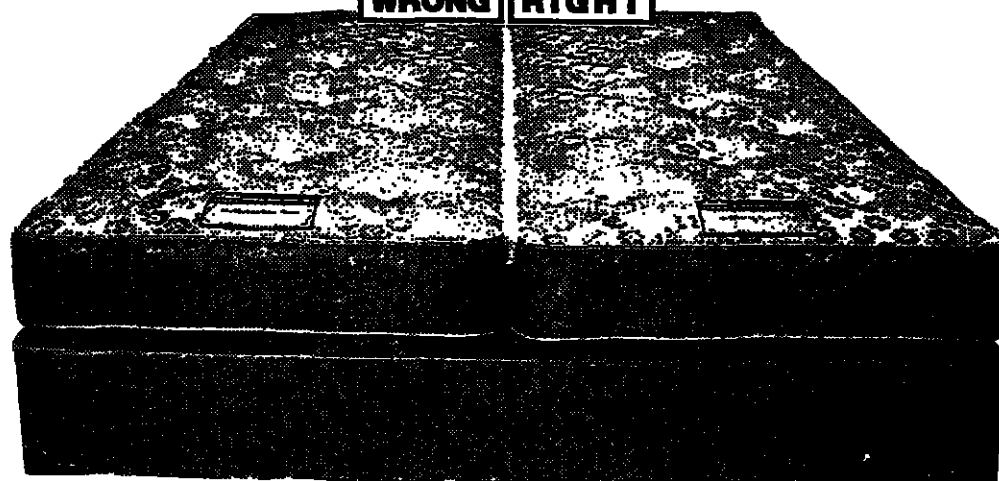
A list of companies offering hotel, *gîte* and B & B holidays can be found in *The Traveller in France*, available free to callers at the FGTO, or send £1 in stamps to receive a copy by post.

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Surveys of British people buying property in France have shown that most spend a holiday in their new second home within a week or two of completing the purchase. This is understandable enough: few people buy a new car and then leave it garaged for weeks. But houses run on fuel, too, and there is nothing more frustrating than arriving at an unfamiliar house to find it devoid of heat and light.

The problem is easily headed off, but do not assume that the power will be left on just because it usually is. Most French people selling a house simply tell the utilities companies the date they are leaving and Electricité de France (EDF) tends to assume that someone else is taking over. The way to be sure is to visit the local EDF office and give them your name and address in the UK and the date on which you are taking over. EDF will not normally want a deposit.

Apart from light, you will almost certainly want to boil a kettle within minutes of arrival. The house is more likely to have a gas cooker than an electric one and the cooker will have a compartment built into it for a gas bottle (there is no mains gas). You will have been delighted to notice on your final pre-purchase trip that the cooker already contains a bottle, as do such things as the water-heaters. But check they are not empty, not by picking up the bottle (they weigh a ton even when empty) but by turning on the gas.

Even if there is gas, get at least one extra bottle. Without experience, there is no way of telling how much gas is left, so it is wise to have a spare. You will almost certainly find one or more empty bottles around the house (check outbuildings)



which can be traded in for a full one at almost every petrol station. Some village shops also sell gas. An exchange bottle will cost around FF70.

If you have to buy new gas bottles the retailer will ask you to register and pay a deposit. Make sure you keep the receipt in case you use a different garage in the future.

There is one potential stumbling block in buying gas. Some houses keep their gas bottles outside, often under a lean-to. If so, you must get propane gas, which can withstand a greater range of temperatures than butane, which is for internal use only. Ignore people who say this doesn't matter in the south: it can snow in Nice.

One other time-saving tip:

for some reason the rubber cover over the gas outlet turns clockwise to undo. In contrast to every other threaded device on Earth, I wish I had known that when I started out.

It is impossible to give any useful estimate of what electricity and gas will cost you in France because that depends upon the amount you use. Gas is a known quantity, so to speak, because you pay for only what you use but electricity involves a standing charge and an amount for local taxation. Bills are half-yearly. As a guide, my latest bill, which included two weeks actually spent at the house, totalled FF260. Of that, actual consumption cost FF13.58. The rest was local tax, VAT and standing charge.

Another overhead is water. Beware of the "quaint" well. The novelty will soon fade and the water could be unfit for human consumption, no matter how sparkly it appears. And the drought which is still seriously affecting the southern half of France has lowered water tables, meaning that many wells have dried up. Have well water checked by the local water authority.

My water cost me FF336.15 for the last half-year, again including taxes. I will not delve into insurance costs here because they vary so much, depending on whether you are furnishing the house to live in or just as a holiday home. But I have not found French insurance to be any more — or less — of a rip-off than it is in the UK. Do think hard before you install expensive items in a house that will be empty for most of the year; burglaries at holiday homes have been increasing. The days of leaving houses unlocked in rural areas seem to be over, even if — as friends of mine recently discovered to their cost — you have only gone out for the afternoon.

PETER BARNARD

NEXT WEEK FURNISHING

Heading for France? On Friday *The Times* in conjunction with LBC, brings you news of last-minute travel bargains, bookings, flights, traffic problems and holiday ideas.

In your own time, please

What is the best age for motherhood? Some of Britain's most successful women give Victoria McKee their (conflicting) views

At 18 Yve Newbold was pregnant, married and a student. She had her second child at 19 and two more before she was 25. "I joined the workforce at 28," she says, "but once I started everybody knew I wasn't going to get off the track." Ms Newbold is now the company secretary of Hanson plc and one of the highest placed and most respected British businesswomen.

It was Lady Wilcox, the chairman of the National Consumer Council, who suggested earlier this year that a woman who wanted to be a parent and have a career should have her children young, very young. The day after government figures showed that increasing numbers of women are waiting until they are in their thirties to have their first child, Lady Wilcox informed the Institute of Directors that "16 is a wonderful age to have babies".

Women who concentrate on careers "end up having babies at 45", she observed. "We must encourage them to breed earlier."

If you have seen a 16-year-old girl have a baby then get up the next day and go dancing it is a wonderful thing! Later Lady Wilcox, aged 52—who had her own son when she was 22—admitted that she was exaggerating just a tiny bit in order to prove her point.

"I said 16 to provoke," she says, "but I was trying to emphasise the fact that because we don't have a national strategy for good daycare services and nursery schools, our bright women, our leaders, are being forced to have babies when they're biologically at the wrong time. We've got grandmothers having babies, and there's too much worrying going on out there, because the older you are when you have your children the more worried you get."

"The girls that I've worked with who have trotted off very young and had babies not only seem to get back into their clothes a damn sight earlier than I did when I had my son but they don't worry nearly so much."

For me 22 was almost the perfect time to have a baby, because I was young enough with him and could roll around on the floor and really play with him—and I was able to be back working when he was three weeks old because I was working in the family business and in my family they didn't regard having babies as being ill.

"My parents had high street shops after the war and my family just expected the women to take part."

Ms Newbold says that young motherhood has its pitfalls. "A lot of women are still children themselves at that stage. I can remember having my baby and sitting in the garden practising my signature. To some extent I think young mothers have the physical strength but they haven't got the life wisdom."

As for the optimum time for fitting motherhood into a career, Ms Newbold says, "It isn't so much when you have your baby, it's the regime you find yourself in. One woman might want to go back within three months of having a baby—another not for 18 months—and that's not a function of how old she is. What is essentially an unchanged, male, hierarchical structure of work doesn't yet have enough flexibility to accommodate women who are careerists."

"I'd like to see 'maternity benefits' as they have in America, so you go in with your tray and serve yourself."

saying "I want eight weeks holiday a year but I'm prepared to give up a pension—or what have you."

One of Ms Newbold's closest friends is Jennifer Anderson, a gas contracts manager with Powergen, who was in a similarly senior position with British Gas when she had her first child at just under 40. "Yve was with me the night before I had James," says Ms Anderson, now 43 and the mother of two children, "and she's often offered to babysit and been very supportive, but I think she's glad that's all behind her."

For Ms Anderson, waiting until she was nearly 40 to begin a family was due only partly to her demanding career. "I got married for the second time when I was 35," she explains, "and was anxious that I had the right partner to have them with. British Gas had adequate maternity arrangements, but I just took two months off with each because I was terribly conscious that if I took a longer break I would fall behind in essential work knowledge. I got nannies sorted out immediately and made sure that my domestic arrangements were extremely well-planned so that there wouldn't be a crisis."

But if there is a domestic problem she is confident enough now to admit as much. "I'm sure that ten years earlier I would have been extremely apologetic. Now I make sure that everyone knows I've got a family. I feel that at this age and stage of my career I have proved my worth so I don't have to worry."

The only drawback to middle-aged motherhood, she feels, is "the terrible tiredness. I had two sleepless babies and I never realised how demanding young children could be. But I don't know that I would have been any less tired in my twenties."

Jo Cutmore was running the search and selection division of Arthur Young when she had her first child, Sam, at the age of 32. By the time she was pregnant with Jack, at 35, she was running her own successful "headhunting" (executive search) business, Jamieson Scott. "I think I anticipated that combining family and career would be easier under my own control and this proved to be the case," Ms Cutmore says.

Now, her family complete with the birth of Hannah late in 1990, when she was 38, she is absolutely certain she made the right decision about the best time to "breed". "I think of friends of mine having babies when they're 40 and I shudder," she says. "I'm sure I couldn't face beginning all that now. And the probability of having four children very young and then beginning a dynamic career, as Yve Newbold did, is very slight."

Hilary Goodrich, the director of midwifery services at St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, north London, says that, looking at the question clinically, the optimum age to have a baby, biologically, is between 18 and 25.

"Women at those ages are much more able to cope physically with the stresses of labour and from the perinatal figures there is a poorer outcome in those under 18, where the body development may not be complete, and over 25," she says. "But there can be emotional drawbacks in having a baby while still in your teens. There is not much life experience and few resources to draw on and a newborn baby can create a stressful environment and put a strain on a relationship."



Early start: having her children young proved no obstacle to Yve Newbold's successful business career

Older mothers can tend to over-prepare for a birth. Mrs Goodrich says, so that it can become their mission in life and after the age of 35 the chances of Down's Syndrome increase dramatically and most women are less fit. On the plus side of motherhood at over 35, Mrs Goodrich says, such mothers have "more experience, more confidence and are better able to communicate."

"By and large I feel the emphasis has to be on how prepared a woman feels—physically and psychologically. I had my children in my late teens and early twenties, so that they were well-established at school when I started seriously working. For me it was right to have children first and then my career—but for every woman it is different."

Lady Wilcox remains adamant that older mothers are unfair on their babies, if not themselves, and that women who could be approaching grandparenthood ought not to be contemplating pregnancy.

"We need a national strategy that will make it possible for women to have their babies when the time is right for them—providing adequate childcare and training so that a woman who wants to take five years off with her children hasn't taken five years off with her brain," she says.

"We need to stop forcing women who want to get to the top to have their babies when they are biologically past their prime years for breeding."



Not too late: Jo Cutmore started her family when she was 32

Mum's one word

Born... and never called me mother. What you call the woman who gave you birth depends on where you are born and to whom. All English variations of the M-word are marked with meaning, overtones of region and class.

No doubt a socio-economic diagram could be superimposed over the British Isles delineating precisely where, travelling in a northerly direction, "Me Mam" takes over from "Mummy". "Mater" went out with Molesworth, though there may be a few isolated anachronistic pockets of "Mumsy". There is even some transatlantic linguistic infiltration by way of T-shirts, Charlie Brown cartoons and greetings cards aimed at "The best Mom in the world".

Travel where you will around the world and you will find some instantly recognisable versions of the comforting hum of an M for Mum: maman, mutti, mamma, ma, moder, mamusia, ima, ma matka. And every mother is familiar with the long wailed "Maamaa..."

What of the naming of Pas?

They fair a little better. Their labels, not always F-words, Dad, Pop, Papa, the Old Man, seem stouter, more sensible words than their female counterparts—nothing so mimsy as mummy. Irritatingly for mothers, who have carried offspring for nine months, given life to them and had the lioness's share of care, theirs is often not the first name on their children's lips.

The earliest recognisable parental eponym from many children is **dadadada**. Speech therapists attribute this ingratitude to the fact that the plosive sounds "p" and "d" are easier for some small mouths to form.

"Mum", the least euphonious appellation, probably remains the most widespread nationally. Not much of a word when you think what goes with the job. Other occupations have their titles. Taking holy orders will ensure that plenty of people call you Father (mostly without an accompanying paternity suit). Though if you want to be a Mother Superior you will have to give up thoughts of actual maternity, as things stand, at any rate.

As a child, you begin with just the one set of parents and it's simple enough to find a suitable soubriquet for the pair. Though, with so many families reforming and taking on extended membership, you may later have the problem of what to call your steps: my other mother, my Durham Daddy. Grandparents, however, present double the problem. Chances are, you will be given two sets at the start.

Most are delighted with their new status and glad of whatever nomenclature they are awarded. My children differentiate between their ancestors by sorting them out into a Grandma and Grandad



DAVINA LLOYD

—one matched pair—and a Granny and Grandpa.

The challenge is greater if your family has four generations on the go simultaneously. My son was appointed to make the presentation at one family celebration and had rehearsed a formal dedication, "Happy Golden Wedding Anniversary Great Grandma and Great Grandad". Word-perfect before the ceremony, he forgot his lines in the excitement of the occasion and could only manage the wholly meaningful elision, "Happy Graniversary".

When it comes to other relatives, things definitely aren't what they used to be. In my day every older relation was addressed by his or her full title. Even my grandparents' siblings were called Great Aunt Ethel and Great Uncle John. Unrelated adults used also to be accorded terms of respect. Every grownup had a title: Mr Macey at the sweetshop, Miss Broderick our Brown Owl. Teachers at school were referred to by their surnames out of earshot, but with an honorary

knighthood to their faces, as in "Please, Sir".

Think of BBC Radio's long-departed avuncular connection, shared by every kid who could twiddle a car's whistler, all children's favourite—Uncle Mac. What self-respecting children's presenter nowadays—or one hoping to retain their respect—would claim acquaintance that way. First name only is applied on to their jumpers, and that's what they expect to be called.

Senior citizens today may be disconcerted to find themselves addressed with first-name familiarity by small fry. But that is the way of the world. If adults mourn the passing of a respectful "Mister" or "Ma'am", they ought to ask themselves when they last gave children the reciprocal respect of a title. "Master" and "Miss" have now been relegated to ironic use or to prevent the fraudulent transfer of airline tickets.

Time was, not so long ago, when parents invited their children to call them by their Christian name. I can understand the theory, but it has always seemed to me that this renounces the uniqueness of the relationship. Any Thomas, Richard or Harold can call you Tom, Dick or Harry, but few can call you father.

Virginia Ironside will appear tomorrow

THE OPTIMASM CARD INTEREST RATE

American Express announces that the Optima interest rate for cash advances is to be varied to 28.4% per annum. Interest charged on Optima statements of account in respect of cash advances from the 1st August 1992 will be at the new rate. All other terms and conditions of the Optima Card remain the same.



American Express Europe Limited, Optima Card Services, Dept. 877, Sussex House, Burgess Hill, West Sussex RH15 9AQ.

Chips are allowed

OVER the summer holidays parents tend to have more control over their children's diets—and their own—than when the exigencies of school and work intrude on good intentions. For extra help in eating healthily there are free booklets for all the family from the British Heart Foundation (BHF)—one for women (with 1,400 calorie a day menus and 14 units of alcohol a week), one for men (allowed to eat and drink more—particularly in light of recent studies suggesting that red wine is good for the heart) and one for teenagers (which doesn't ban beefburgers and chips but preaches moderation). The men's and women's guides are both called *So You Want*.

To Lose Weight. The cover of the men's has a face with a banana for a nose, the women's has a head with spaghetti hair and flowers for eyes. The teenaged guide is called *Body Talk*. Leaflets may be requested individually or as a "family pack" (specifying those you require). The BHF suggests sending a donation to cover the cost of postage (£1 for the full pack; 50p for individual leaflets) to British Heart Foundation, 14 Fitzhardinge Street, London W1H 4DH (071-935 0185).

Model childhood

"TOYS from your past"—model railways, vintage dolls, dog-eared teddy bears, Matchbox cars, lead soldiers, larger pedal-powered toys, and action figures from the early 1960s and 1970s will be on display from Thursday until September 2 at Elsbam Hall Country Park, near Brigg.

South Humberside (0652 688698). This is a chance for children to see the kind of toys their parents and grandparents played with, the park's manager, Robert Elwes, says. The model railways on loan from the Yorkshire Model Railway Museum should be a particular attraction. The entrance fee is £3 for adults and £2 to children, and the profits go to the Children's Wish Foundation and Save the Children.

Safe waters

INSTEAD of throwing the baby out with the bathwater, why not throw the bathwater over the baby? That was the reasoning behind the new Tommy baby shower, which does away with the worrying unpredictability of some shower temperatures and allows

babies to enjoy the stimulating sensations of showering—safely. Its battery-powered pump action draws up water from the bath, sink, or whatever you are bathing your baby in. The hand-held showerhead looks like a duck, and is designed to make directing the water flow easy. It costs approximately £19.49 and comes with a water filter and wall attachment. For details of local stockists telephone 0703 872267.

Shopping in style

HARRODS will be holding a special back-to-school promotion over the whole of August. The "Backing the Future" razzmatazz is a cunning way to make buying school uniform less fraught for parents and children, with videos and interactive CDs to play with, as well as competitions, special offers and even a portrait photographer poised to capture the moment. *Times* readers who bring this cutting to the children's department during August will be offered instant membership in the "children's bureau" initiated by the section manager, Marisa Solicari, last year. "Members can book an assistant for the time they want, like booking a hair appointment," Ms Solicari says. "We can have things waiting for them—say, party dresses for seven-year-old girls in a certain size, style and price range

—and they have the undivided attention of someone who specialises in what they are looking for. We send the children birthday cards and a special gift for new arrivals to the family, we offer an extended returns policy, to take account of children in boarding schools or members with difficulty in getting to London."



Have duffel, will travel

For any member making an appointment during the month of August there will be special goody bags. Membership is usually by invitation only, to regular customers, but *Times* readers have this opportunity to join without any prior purchase.

Positively helpful

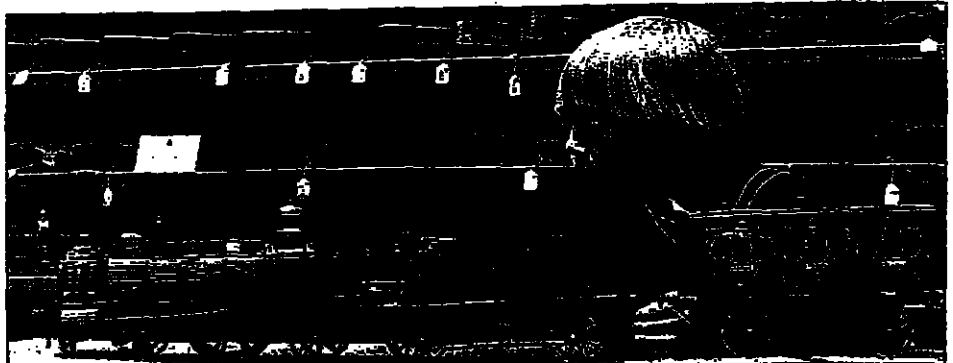
NEW Age teenagers will undoubtedly appreciate the sophisticated and "politically correct" T-shirts and accessories in the new catalogue from the Terrence Higgins Trust, the oldest UK charity working

in the field of HIV and AIDS (it was established in 1983). There is a discreet "Safe Sex" T-shirt designed by Paul Smith, and another bearing the word "All Life is Precious" from Workers For Freedom. Each design costs £11.95 and is part of the "Fashion Acts" initiative. There are mugs, videos and other items in the collection. Details from Terrence Higgins Enterprises Ltd, 52-54 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8JU.

Coat tales

THE most colourful duffel coats around are in the new *Next Directory*—for toddlers up to eight-year-olds. The toddler's toggle-fastening, hooded woolen coat is red, with blue sleeves and pockets, and green on the shoulders and pocket flaps. It costs £29.99. The older child's version features even brighter blocks of colour—green sleeves, a blue and red body with mustard trim, red pockets and blue toggles. It costs £32.99 and £34.99 depending on age. There is also a grape and forest green corduroy duffel coat (£29.99) for boys and a mango-coloured one (£32.99 and £34.99) for girls. The new *Directory*, which features clothes for the whole family, plus fabrics, bedlinen, blinds and accessories, costs £3 from Next Directory, Freeport, 1 Dudding Road, Leicester LE5 5DW (0345 100 500).

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Service ethic survives a battering

The media is being accused of contributing to the poor image of the public sector, Peter Kingston reports

The public sector, despite a mauling from governments and their supporters in sections of the press over the past decade, can still attract graduates. The service ethic which it has traditionally inspired survives. But although candidates might safely talk at Whitehall job interviews of commitment to serve the public, older hands find that such sentiments no longer command the respect in the outside world that they once did.

One senior local government official recently described the change in people's perceptions of her work: "It wasn't so long ago that you could say you worked for a public organisation because you were dedicated to public service, but people are often embarrassed if they hear that said now."

Some officials blame the Thatcher administrations for having damaged the esteem in which, they believe, the public sector was once held and for having promoted the notion that it is inferior to the private sector. They accuse the Tory tabloid newspapers of having spread such Conservative "propaganda" against local government, particularly authorities that were Labour controlled. At the same time the Conservatives were tightening the public spending squeeze

which the Callaghan government had begun in the late 1970s. This two-pronged attack on local government was one of Lady Thatcher's most notable political triumphs, according to Dr James Cornford, director of the left-wing think tank, the Institute for Public Policy Research. He says it has severely dented morale across the public sector, except in the armed forces and police.

With a few exceptions, among broadsheet newspapers and the BBC, Dr Cornford feels that the media has been banging the Tory drum as an easy substitute for informed coverage of important issues. "Public sector management is not a sexy issue to write about. It's much easier to concentrate on the British Gas chairman's salary than write about future investment and whether it's better done by government bonds or by equity."

Dr Cornford accepts, however, that the popular press has to an extent reflected an existing perception of the public sector. "If public services had been extremely good and responsive to consumers then the newspaper propaganda would not have persuaded people, just as it hasn't persuaded people to abandon the NHS."

Broadsheet newspapers, in his view, have failed to accord the



subject the coverage the private sector enjoys. Noel Hepworth, director of CIPFA (Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy), says that the quality and amount of media coverage has not reflected the public sector's 40 per cent slice of the economy.

This lack of interest in public sector management during the 1980s reflected an attitude in the highest government circles. When Michael Heseltine, during his first

stint as Environment Secretary, unveiled his plans to shake up Whitehall management, his toughest job was to overcome the boredom of his colleagues in Cabinet.

British press treatment of the public sector surprises people overseas. He says: "You do not get the same denigration of public officials abroad as you get in Britain. It's a very damaging phenomenon and frankly people in my position overseas are amazed at it."

A report on CIPFA's future marketing strategy three years ago by Saatchi and Saatchi found a continuing interest among graduates for careers in the public sector. The rewards of the job were considered by sufficient numbers of candidates to be a more than adequate trade-off for "the more blatantly material rewards of accountancy in the private sector". Mr Hepworth, however, says that the number of good graduate

candidates has shrunk significantly as morale has collapsed. "Over time the calibre of managers is actually being very seriously weakened."

He accuses the tabloid press of failing to distinguish between management and policy makers in its crusade against so-called "loony left" councils, a blurring of roles which has tainted many readers' views of local authority officialdom. Such journalism brought instant condemnation on CIPFA members

when the story broke of the collapse of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International. "When it came to rational analysis through the Treasury and Civil Service Committee we actually came rather well out of the affair." Another aspect of media coverage has been the willingness to accept the line "we are all consumers now" irrespective of the types of services on offer, says Sue Goss, director of planning of the Office for Public Management, a development centre founded three years ago. Important distinctions between consumer and citizen have been ignored.

Does she think that public management's role in the organisation of government, both national and local, has been properly covered? "As citizens, issues about how we are governed, who's accountable to whom and who listens to whom, are as important as how my bin is emptied."

To make up for the lack of recognition accorded to the wealth of talent in public management, the office makes an annual best manager award. Ms Goss acknowledges that management will never grab the column inches. She feels that "a colleague's favourite analogy" sums up the situation: public management is like underwear - other people only see it when you are in an accident.

● Peter Kingston was until recently local government correspondent for the London Evening Standard.

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TUESDAY JULY 28 1992

Now a tax on credulity, too

An excessive enthusiasm for competition and privatisation should be worrying local authority managers and their councillors

Local government finance and revenues officers are not the best of times (when those were). Some of the personal suffering caused by the poll tax in particular should not be joked about. But added now to the endless problems created by the legacies of 1980s policy errors — from creative accounting to capital controls — and the community charge, not to mention the horrendous timetable for introducing the council tax next April — comes the real, and more personal, stunner: competitive tendering for your own job.

Tendering was until now an exercise which most professionals supervised. It was always someone else at risk. Now white-collar professionals in local authorities face the prospect of contracting-out on limited-term contracts to private companies. This does not require compulsion from central government (which may have enough to do coping with Mr Waldegrave), although the threat is there in the consultation paper "Competing for Quality".

Already one district council, East Cambridgeshire, has signed a £3.5 million, five-year deal with CAPITA to cover its entire revenues and benefits, including the introduction of the council tax. Others are said to be following. Collecting local taxes could now join refuse collection and other visibly dirty services being carried out by private sector companies.

No one should quibble with a policy objective that secures the best value for money for local taxpayers, and the minimisation of the cost of collection of taxes. And, no true professional should find job satisfaction through maintaining a system, or even his own job, that is not to the public benefit. There are, however, two massive ironies, and one immense danger, in what is happening.

First, when it comes to prizes for wasting taxpayer's money, is the poll tax, imposed by central government against the united view of

the local authority associations and everyone in local government, regardless of party or profession. Despite the numerous changes in structure, successive and ever more complex transitional arrangements, and the inherent absurdity of tracking citizens' movements on a daily basis, the performance of local government professionals in administering the poll tax has been widely praised, not least from abroad, including eastern Europe. Here, the expertise of revenues officers in managing the introduction of new taxes is taken as an administrative model for what to do (and in political terms of what not to do).

The second irony is that until a few weeks ago the government seemed intent on pushing local



Colin Farrington

and central government in opposite directions. Central government civil servants, who were brought in fresh from university as policy-makers and policy advisors, were being expected to become hands-on managers of newly cre-

ated agencies. But, has anyone seen much improvement yet in the operation of, say, the Benefits Agency?

Conversely, local government has always been mainly staffed with "doers", people who have undertaken professional training and taken qualifications, some of them no doubt rather narrowly based on technical skills. Sometimes in the past these skills were not focused sufficiently on management and financial control, but this is being rectified.

What would be very damaging for local government, and in the long-term for its customers, would be if those skills were to be pushed aside in the rush to buy in the cheapest possible services. As a current series of adverts by the

government's own Stationery Office candidly suggests, purchasers need to beware of "loss leaders".

What is cheap in years one to year three by cutting back on staff training and employing lower-grade staff, rebounds savagely in the later years. Another worrying effect is the disintegration of local government, as previously effective centralised systems of say computer and personnel management become top-heavy as bits of the body which they supported are removed.

The failure for example to keep revenues and benefits sections integrated could have the same effect as dividing managerial responsibility has had on the environment in my home town of Brighton. Here, the privatised and efficient street cleaners elegantly steer their brooms around the uncollected rubbish which only the council's directly employed refuse collectors can touch.

Most fundamentally of all, everyone connected with local government knows that the effect of initiatives such as further reorganisation, changes in the tax structure, and now contracting out which appears to divert political decision-making into merely administrative control over contracts, is to have a devastating impact on the quality of councillors.

The local authority associations, representing those councillors who are left, find it difficult to articulate this. But, until central government recognises that local government is about having centres of power and decision-making distinct from Whitehall, and is prepared to accept that local government must keep its managerial structures intact to service those alternative centres of power, then competitive tendering away of local authority jobs not only risks the loyalty of dedicated professional staff but increases the risk that we slide unawares into an effective centralised state.

Colin Farrington is director, the Institute of Revenues Rating and Valuation

When a hospital prescribes a revolution

Trust status gives managers greater freedom but it presents an enormous challenge. Clare Hogg reports

The metamorphosis of a traditionally run hospital into an NHS trust is a heady and exhilarating process. District health authorities used to manage the health service units (hospitals, ambulance services, community health-care and so forth) as well as assessing the need for healthcare provision. Now, trust hospitals are independent, responsible only for providing services which they sell by contract to health authorities and GPs.

This distinction allows greater freedom and control (they can operate almost as independent companies). The changes are genuinely radical and present an enormous challenge to the managers of such a monolithic organisation, the largest employer in Europe and accused of being choked by bureaucracy.

Everyone is affected, from the top down. Chief executives, such as Michael Murray, of the Mental Health Foundation, of the Staffordshire NHS trust, see not only new horizons but the opportunity to develop a committed and motivated workforce.

Since becoming a trust, productivity and quality have improved. Mr Murray has been responsible for decisions establishing a new nursing development unit, and, in conjunction with Bradford management centre, a healthcare marketing unit. The hospital has increased its catchment area by about 30,000; it has won the Sir Graham Day award for management in mental health;

and it has developed a range of quality initiatives which are marketed in this country and abroad.

With trust status, the hospital has been able to recruit staff much more easily. Most far-reaching of all, within the next 12 months will be the sale of its antiquated building and replacement with a new hospital, one of the few to allow each patient a private room. Not all of this progress would have been possible prior to being granted trust status. Even if it had been possible, Mr Murray says, it would have taken a lot longer.

Mr Murray's board expects him to "get on and make decisions". The role and make-up of the boards of directors which run trust hospitals are an important factor in their successful management. Dr Dick Horsnell, the chairman of Essex Rivers healthcare trust, describes a survey which was done to monitor the executive directors' concepts of the role of the non-executives on his board.

"The presence of the non-executives made them feel more secure," he says. "The

non-executives help, rather than criticise. We are able to have robust discussions without any rancour and new insights come thick and fast." All the non-executives are experienced, local and highly committed. Each one chairs a group which deals with his own particular skills and enthusiasm, it could be quality, financial reporting, or information systems.

The importance of this outside input becomes obvious in the light of the traditionally introspective approach. The managers have often spent their entire careers within the health service. The presence of the non-executive directors helps to counter this, as do initiatives such as those introduced by Mr Murray at Stafford arranging secondments to industry (some managers have gone to Marks and Spencer).

This is one example of new openings at senior management levels. As Graham Martin, director of healthcare consulting in the UK for the Hay group, explains: "The health service used to be run very much on the basis of a tribal structure. Slowly, but

surely, this is now changing." The quality initiative at Stafford, which is entirely self-funding, was developed by a nurse who used to be on the wards. Mr Murray says: "One success encourages other members of staff to develop their own interests."

Mr Martin says that doctors now have more opportunities to undertake a wider range of jobs. The clinical directorates (for example in gynaecology, surgery, paediatrics) which have been introduced in trusts cut across the old functional distinctions (doctors, nurses, administrators, support staff). Doctors in charge of these directorates need to have well-developed managerial skills.

Philip Gill, assistant director of human resources for South-East Thames regional health authority, is proud of the week-long seminar which the authority runs to introduce consultant clinicians to "the management process". "The course dispels the myths and gives the right level of insight," he says.

However, it is the budgetary restrictions and managerial element that will become more integral to many doctors' jobs that has proved unpopular. The British Medical Association, in particular, is not enthusiastic about the changes, fearing that they cut away at the power base of the professions.

However, as Dr Horsnell remarks, "the days of the James Robertson Justice all-powerful consultant running a hospital are over". The requirement now is for good-quality management.

Asset management has also become increasingly important as equipment now needs to be depreciated in the accounts on a standard basis and non-financial managers need more financial skills to at least speak the same language as colleagues in the financial sector.

With about 3,500 NHS staff taking the Mesol courses, Mr Lucas emphasises the main thrust is to teach people to manage change and transition. "It's not just a route to qualification or promotion. It's about improving the quality of service."

The foundation Mesol course, "Managing Health Services" is designed for 220 hours of study with residential study weeks either at the Open University or at open learning centres run by the health service. The four main topics in the syllabus are in line with the Management Charter Initiative and cover, "Managing Yourself and Your Job", "Managing People", "Man-



Managers in a reformed service: Sisters Pat Reade (left) and Frances Potter

aging in Your Organisation" and "Managing in the External Environment".

Professor Henderson says the module on the management of change, which he wrote especially for NHS managers, is one of the most popular components. He already sees significant changes since the training was introduced. "People who were called administrators and perhaps seen as just pen-pushers have been transformed to proactive managers."

Ron Jones, the personnel manager at the Shrewsbury acute and maternity services unit, Shropshire, is also programme manager for the health services management course at Birmingham University, where he runs courses for health service managers throughout the West Midlands. "We're turning practice into theory rather than theory into practice," he says. "The courses are very closely related to what staff do in their day-to-day work."

He finds the Mesol course acts as a catalyst for change. It gives participants a wider perspective as study groups of half a dozen from different backgrounds keep in touch and share their thoughts and work problems. Professor Henderson has found NHS staff studying on the course have a very practical approach. "Techniques attract them enormously, any aids to action. The study groups away from the workplace have been tremendous for morale and

breaking down the barriers," he says. "You might find consultants, nurses, a finance director, an information technology manager and a catering manager all learning together in the same group with an opportunity to meet each other and learn about each others' work. Previously that never happened. We've been building bridges between the different tribes in the health service."

DOREEN KING

A giant learns new skills

As Europe's biggest single employer, with nearly a million people on its staff, the National Health Service is a relative newcomer to modern management training. It introduced its first consistent, coordinated and countrywide management development programme only two years ago. Professor Euan Henderson, of the Open University's Open Business School, is at the forefront of this training — working with the Institute of Health Services Management to create Mesol: the management education syllabus and open learning programme. He explains: "The NHS is an extraordinary organisation encompassing almost every human activity. It has aspects of manufacturing, aspects of a service industry as well as a whole range of people working in every professional discipline you can list. Managers in, for instance, finance or estates have enormous responsibilities."

Mr Peter Lucas, the Mesol programme manager at the NHS training directorate, says that managers of support services are often the equivalent of marketing managers or of senior engineers in industry who supervise valuable equipment and handle substantial budgets.

About 330,000 people in the NHS have managerial responsibilities. Many of them are medical and para-medical professionals but there are also many "civilians" whose job is to keep the huge organisation functioning. Around 1,000 are general managers of NHS units such as large teaching hospitals, NHS districts, regions and trusts. These managers have similar responsibilities

to main board directors and subsidiary board directors in industry.

The next tranche of managers, service planning managers, deputy directors of NHS trusts and estates managers. Many of these might be people who joined the NHS as engineers or accountants and learned on the job.

"Business planning is the big thing now and each unit has to have a business plan," Mr Lucas says. "Because of the purchaser/provider relationship, where healthcare is purchased on behalf of patients, NHS managers now need to develop negotiating skills, business planning and contracting, and leadership."

Mayors with panache

The thought of US-style city mayors for Birmingham, Sheffield or Manchester was enough to send many MPs into near apoplexy. The idea was mooted last summer by Michael Heseltine, in a short but whirlwind tenancy at the environment department. Mr Heseltine could rarely conceal his annoyance at the processes of local government. Elected members, unlike their continental or American counterparts, were a dull bunch drowned in paper, bound by red tape and steeped in such inappropriate details as the time sheets of road diggers. Abroad, elected members had panache and vision. Mr Heseltine invited councils to experiment with different internal arrangements. Issued last summer, the

Elected mayors are on the agenda again

invitation prompted no action and had been largely forgotten until Michael Howard, the current environment secretary, revisited the issue with the formation of a working group, similar in form to the Beis Committee that prompted the near total adoption of corporate working in councils in the early 1970s.

The government wants to encourage faster and more businesslike decision making. At the same time it wants to enhance the scrutiny of those decisions, attract better (and possibly fewer) councillors and increase the interest of the

public in local government. Inevitably, it was Mr Heseltine's proposed reform to the role of mayors that attracted most attention.

The proposal was the most radical and alien. It was, the traditionalists argued, a flawed system that concentrated power in the hands of the few and insulated the tradition of impartiality held so dear by the country's public servants.

The other proposals stirred interest, but little action. Government suggestions included cabinet style government, a directly elected executive, with two tiers of elected members — one taking decisions, the other scrutinising them; and a council manager system with a strong professional effectively running the authority — an unpopular idea with local politicians.



David Dinkins, mayor of New York, and Birmingham's council leader, Sir Richard Knowles: a world apart?

Councils like the consultative tone of the paper but they questioned how government could instigate such a review without first establishing what local government's role was or revealing which functions councils would be left with after Mr Heseltine's "fundamental review". More deeply held was a



frustration that the paper hung all its propositions around the concept of the enabling council — the Nicholas Ridley devised model of a council that ran services through a series of contracts. Local government, despite its 19th century designed system of service committees in a complex hierarchy, had adapted

over the years to the countless changes and "challenges". The strain of this system, however, comes closest to the surface in the country's deeply politicised city and urban councils.

Chief executives have long struggled with the legal position that recognises the whole council as the decision making body, while in reality the power lies, at best, within the ruling group of politicians, at worst within some unaccountable outpost of the party machine. Similarly, they have found the notion that those politicians just decide policy and officers just implement it too simplistic.

The problems manifest themselves in many ways. One is the frightening turnover of chief executives. In just two years, 1988-1990, 37 out of the 69 urban chief executives left their jobs.

Some chief executives fear their role, and consequently

that of elected members, lacks clarity. The job is far from easy and requires consummate skill in seeming impartial and available to all political groups and the council without appearing weak and uncommitted to the ruling party. But chief executives are changing themselves. A survey undertaken by Local Government Chronicle and public sector headhunters SPA last month found that a legal background was no longer the surest route to reaching this pre-eminent position. Councils are increasingly looking for generalist management skills in those appointed to the post.

A number of authorities have not awaited government action and have drawn up conventions and agreements setting out the bounds of the officer/politician relationship. Others have put themselves forward as internal management guinea pigs, although the time scale of Sir John

Banham's separate reorganisation of the council map is proving a consuming diversion for many.

All local authorities have been put on warning they should respond more imaginatively to the government's internal management review. Professor George Jones, a member of Mr Howard's working group, has warned: "Some dangerous thinking is required if councils are to show themselves geared to the challenges of governing our cities, towns and villages."

A measure of dangerous thinking is required of government, too. For if it is serious about its intention to strengthen and improve council decision making and to attract high calibre members it should restore to local government real local discretion.

PAUL KEENAN

The author is the editor of Local Government Chronicle.

Should the press be curbed?

No: voters must know their MP

Richard Storey argues that politicians have no right to withhold facts that may sway the electorate

Had I, the Conservative candidate for Huddersfield West in 1970, been able to persuade a few more of the then-substantial Liberal minority to vote for me, I would have become an MP. As it was, Labour won by 193 votes, after those so-called "Liberals" had told me they supported Enoch Powell and wanted "niggers" to return to their own countries.

There can be no question but that at that election the views of the individual candidates counted for much, and determined the result in at least my constituency.

During this year's general election wide variations could be seen in the swing to or away from the various political parties among the different constituencies. One reason for this could be that, despite there being plenty of evidence to the contrary, the performance of a candidate can still matter. I am told that many candidates no longer have a personal manifesto, but rely upon the national parties' central policies. It is said there was one candidate who campaigned exclusively on national policies, perhaps out of fear that too much of his own personality would otherwise have been revealed.

This national reliance is a wide diversion from tradition. Once, there would have been no question of carpet-baggers climbing on a party bandwagon and waiting for it to roll them into Westminster. Electors could choose people whom they knew, wars and all. That is quintessential democracy. Even 20 years ago, the custom of large political meetings, with a Cabinet minister or two in attendance, had disappeared.

But there was still plenty of opportunity for the voters to discover the opinions of candidates who, as in a beauty parade, displayed themselves within the constituency. I can remember filling in countless questionnaires—I conceived it my duty to do so—telling anybody who wanted to know anything and everything about myself and my views.

Surely that attitude is completely right, and we diminish politics and such little esteem as politicians may still have—if we diminish the role of the individual in the constituency? Because that is precisely what is now happening. While there may be all kinds of reasons for this trend—such as the increased professionalism of politicians, or the way in which they increasingly see Parliament not as public service but as an opportunity for self-enrichment—the one I wish to bring to people's attention is the way in which it seems to be thought almost improper either to promote or to expose any individual person in a constituency and to discover that individual's views and characteristics.

An MP is, essentially, a plenipotentiary and not a postman. I do not expect my member to count opinions in the constituency and merely record at Westminster the majority view of the constituency's electors but, rather, to

use good judgment to weigh local opinion against his knowledge and experience, and seek to influence colleagues in Parliament, by persuasion and by his vote, to favour the cause he or she selects. Observation reveals that this view is one commonly held at Westminster, or otherwise, for example, Parliament would long ago have restored capital punishment in accordance with the desires of constituency opinion.

Surely it then follows that if being a plenipotentiary is the candidate's proper job, it is essential that they should reveal themselves when they offer themselves for election.

In my opinion, candidates forfeit all their rights to privacy when they present themselves for election. When I fought Huddersfield West people were keenly interested in all aspects of me. They wanted to know everything: upbringing, education, family and religious beliefs. And why not? It was then the custom, moreover, to feed all this information to the electorate so they could make up their minds legitimately and not subsequently be surprised to find that unwittingly they had elected a member who then voted and behaved in a way

wholly alien to what many in the constituency would desire.

This does not mean, of course, that many MPs were not and are not able to disguise themselves. There would be nothing wrong in that provided that their personal and political characters had been well examined at the hustings. Moreover, many electors would actually want people with versatile thinking to represent them, not just persistent party political cannon fodder.

To know everything about a candidate is not necessarily to know that as a member he will slavishly conform on every issue. Far from it: for a candidate to reveal his freshness of mind, independence from party political baggage and good judgment ought to be a winning combination, to which should also be added, in all cases bar that of the truly independent—a party political conviction.

Accordingly I believe that everything about a candidate should be revealed by that candidate if asked. Further, I suggest that the media have a right and duty to seek out every characteristic of every candidate.

Essentially all elections under our present system are local, and while this remains so, surely it is the duty of the media to tread where individual voters might fear to go?

But, far from such organisations as the Press Complaints Commission following this line of thought, it looks as if the PCC would actually uphold the newspaper industry's own code of conduct in such a way that it would actually prevent certain disclosures that the public would like to see. Whether this be the fault of the code or the PCC is not yet clear. The Code prohibits under privacy all "intrusions into an individual's private life", unless published, "in the public interest". Under

an essence of politics is personal morality. What can be improper about a voter deciding that he would like to support a candidate who had kept his matrimonial vows, as opposed to one who had not, because that voter considered the former more trustworthy than the latter?

I would not rest happily in my grave some years hence if I were to be party now to convincing with politicians to prevent the electorate knowing everything there was to know about candidates before they were elected to become politicians. To be defeated is honourable; to capitulate can be cowardly self-indulgence.

According to Mr Storey, many social issues are presented from a Tory point of view, and help, over a period of time, to change attitudes among the reading public.



It is the duty of the media to tread where voters might fear to go

RICHARD STOREY



Sometimes: but who is to say when and how?

Roy Greenslade on the politician who wants to tackle the tabloids, but retain the public's right to know

The Mellor affair has not deflected the MP campaigning to clean up Britain's tabloid newspapers. Paradoxically, Clive Soley is unmoved by the Mellor revelations because he has realised, he says, that privacy is not amenable to legislation.

Mr Soley, the Labour MP for Hammersmith, is concentrating his private member's bill on the creation of a statutory Press Complaints Commission which would focus on the need for accuracy and impartiality but would avoid the problem of privacy.

He says "The People picked the worst possible grounds for publishing their story by stating that Mr Mellor was 'too tired to write speeches'. However, they could have argued that as a public person in his position, their story was valid. If they had done so, my bill would not have restricted such publication."

The Soley analysis stems from a familiar Labour complaint about monopolistic press ownership. With so few newspaper owners, almost all of whom favour the free market and the Conservative party, there is an inbuilt bias.

This bias, particularly prevalent in the tabloids and about which Labour protested after losing the April election, not only restricts what most people read about politics and economics, it also informs every aspect of what is published.

Mr Soley argues that a whole range of dissenting views are therefore marginalised, and this narrowing of the agenda is harmful to the democratic process.

For example, he says, for years the campaigners fighting to free the people wrongly jailed for the Birmingham and Guildford bombings could not raise any interest in their case among the tabloids. "I would have thought that they would have provided perfect subjects for investigative journalists," he says.

Worse than press indifference, however, is hostility in cases of high-profile crimes, such as Constable Keith Blacklock's murder during the Broadwater Farm riots of 1985, when those trying to raise the issue of wrongful conviction were denigrated.

According to Mr Soley, many social issues are presented from a Tory point of view, and help, over a period of time, to change attitudes among the reading public.



This notion is as wrong-headed as the last bills which tried to turn judges into editors

ROY GREENSLADE

"Take homelessness," says Mr Soley, who is Labour's housing spokesman. "At first, as the cardboard cities sprang up, there seemed to be a view among the public that it was a terrible problem. But the Tory tabloids gradually convinced readers that it was the homeless who were at fault. By finding a few fake beggars, the London Evening Standard presented all the homeless as frauds and spongers."

By denying its readers views which depart from the consensus or destroying the credibility



Clive Soley: determined

of such views, provides only a partial view of the world—and this is bad for society.

I am with Mr Soley so far because it is impossible to deny that his is a fair description of the tabloid process. Having worked for both the Tory Sun and the Labour-supporting Daily Mirror I am well aware of the different ideological approaches.

However, I depart from him once he puts forward his remedy. He wants his bill to impose on newspapers the same rules of impartiality as those which pertain in the broadcast media. In other words, newspapers would be required to publish the other side of any argument or issue so that readers were presented, as in radio and television, with a balanced viewpoint.

He denies that this would infringe a newspaper editor's freedom to campaign, arguing that some of the best investigative journalism in recent years has been on television, where balance is required.

Furthermore, the Press Complaints Commission would be transformed into a public body which could act through the courts to ensure that newspapers observed certain agreed standards of accuracy and impartiality.

I am afraid this notion is about as wrong-headed as the last two failed private members' bills which tried to turn judges into editors: one attempted to introduce a law on privacy while the other sought to impose a right of reply.

I accept that these are early days for Mr Soley, and that he is some way from drawing up his bill, but I cannot begin to imagine how, at this mature stage in the history of Britain's partisan press, he will come up with a formula to impose impartiality on the tabloids.

He further muddies the water by tacking on to his otherwise excellent analysis the claim that his bill would help prevent the "persecution" of the Prince and Princess of Wales. I cannot see what this has to do with his major argument, but if he is serious, then he is drifting into yet another row over privacy and intrusion.

Even so, Mr Soley has identified a sore which papers with fast-declining circulations should consider seriously.

ROY GREENSLADE is a former editor of the Daily Mirror.

Yes: if it turns to entrapment

Charles Wintour on the unsavoury—but not yet illegal—aspects of a newspaper's search for a scoop

When Antonia de Sancha, a minor, unemployed actress, accepted the invitation of a friend to make use of his flat in Finborough Road, west London, she thought she would lessen any chance of publicity for the new romance in her life—a rising star in the Conservative cabinet. In fact she was walking into a sleazy and well-baited trap laid by her so-called "friend", a man who has turned out to be a would-be newspaper informant called Nick Philp.

The Sunday Times has revealed exactly how Mr Philp and the People were able to bug David Mellor's telephone conversations with the actress. Their disclosures have put an entirely new perspective on the affair. Mr Philp had bugged his own phone and his own bedroom so that transcriptions of what was said could be sold. Even when Mr Mellor warned Miss de Sancha how to deal with any press enquiries that might arise—"Now remember the golden rule that nobody needs ever to have a conversation with a journalist..."—he was being bugged; his hope that he could conceal the whole affair was doomed from the start as The

People, which had bought the story after it had been turned down by the News of the World, installed its own more sophisticated equipment in the flat monitored by its reporter, Ray Levine. It may be true that, as the editor of The People constantly affirmed, nothing illegal was done, but the business of entrapment has a particularly unpleasant feel and it does appear that if the recommendations made in the original Calcutt Committee had been in force, this form of surveillance would have transgressed the law.

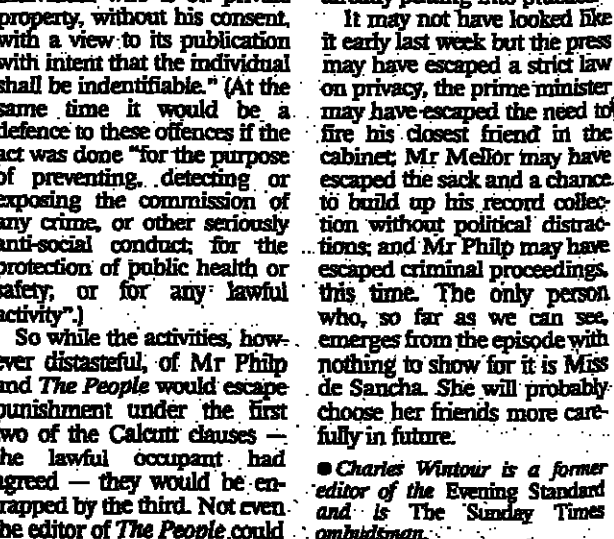
Calcutt recommended that: "Three forms of physical intrusion should be criminal offences in England and Wales: (a) Entering private property, without the consent of the lawful occupant, with intent to obtain personal information with a view to its publication; (b) Placing a surveillance device on private property, without the consent of the lawful occupant, with intent to obtain personal information with a view to its publication; (c) Taking a photograph, or recording the voice, of an individual who is on private property, without his consent, with a view to its publication with intent that the individual shall be identifiable." (At the same time it would be a defence to these offences if the act was done "for the purpose of preventing, detecting or exposing the commission of any crime, or other seriously anti-social conduct, for the protection of public health or safety, or for any lawful activity".)

So while the activities, however distasteful, of Mr Philp and The People would escape punishment under the first two of the Calcutt clauses—the lawful occupant had agreed—they would be entraped by the third. Not even the editor of The People could

properly discuss in the press and the commission's considered views would have been heard with interest. Mr Mellor, too, may in the end benefit from his exposure to his peccadillo. He was a bit too bumptious for his own good and may have learnt the advantage of an occasional show of humility. Judging by his performance on Desert Island Discs, recorded before news of his affair reached the front pages, he is well suited to be minister for the arts. His choice of records was well balanced and he recognised that there is more to life than politics—a credo he was already putting into practice.

It may not have looked like it early last week but the press may have escaped a strict law on privacy, the prime minister may have escaped the need to fire his closest friend in the cabinet. Mr Mellor may have escaped the sack and a chance to build up his record collection without political distractions, and Mr Philp may have escaped criminal proceedings, this time. The only person who, so far as we can see, emerges from the episode with nothing to show for it is Miss de Sancha. She will probably choose her friends more carefully in future.

Charles Wintour is a former editor of the Evening Standard and is The Sunday Times ombudsman.



Press victims: Virginia and Peter Bottomley



Public property? The Prince and Princess of Wales

BBC1

- 6.00 CeeFax** (58596)
6.30 Breakfast News begins with *Business Breakfast* until 6.55 when there begins news and topical reports with regular business, sport, weather, regional news and travel bulletins (47848480)
8.55 Olympic Grandstand introduced by Steve Rider, featuring swimming, rowing, tennis, badminton, modern pentathlon, gymnastics and boxing. Includes news and weather at 10.00, 11.00 and 12.00 (1793033) 12.55 Regional News and weather (70645571)
1.00 One O'Clock News (CeeFax) Weather (80022) 1.30 Neighbours. (CeeFax) (19751954)
1.50 Olympic Grandstand and Racing. From Barcelona, tennis, badminton, swimming and boxing. Racing from "Glorious Goodwood" features live coverage of the California Stakes (2.30), the Gordon Stakes (3.10), the William Hill Stewards' Cup (3.45) and the Oak Tree Stakes (4.15). The commentators are Peter O'Sullivan, Jimmy Lindley and Julian Wilson (33508312)
5.35 Neighbours (r). (CeeFax) (925428). Northern Ireland: Inside Ulster
6.00 Six O'Clock News with Andrew Harvey and Jill Dando. (CeeFax) Weather (935)
6.30 Regional News Magazines (515). Northern Ireland: Neighbours
7.00 May to December. Paul A. Mendelson's age-gap romantic comedy starring Anton Rodgers and Lesley Dunlop. This week Zoe is concerned that the baby will be brought up with a previous generation's prejudices (r). (CeeFax) (55645)
7.30 EastEnders. (CeeFax) (5799)
10.00 Olympics Today. Desmond Lynam reviews the day's events which featured swimming, tennis, hockey, tennis, badminton and the modern pentathlon (2409)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Michael Buerk. (CeeFax) Regional News and weather (3022)
9.30 Porridge. Ronnie Barker stars in Dick Clement's and Ian La Frenais's classic behind-bars comedy. In this episode, Fletcher the recidivist becomes concerned when stolen pills end in his cup of tea. With Richard Briers, Fulton MacKay and Brian Wilde (r). (CeeFax) (24393)
10.00 Olympic Grandstand. Gymnastics includes the climax of the women's team final; weightlifting features the featherweight final; and judo sees the finals of the men's and women's half-heavyweight competitions (4374)



Displaying a nervous disposition: Mel Brooks (Midnight)

- 12.00 Film: High Anxiety** (1977) starring Mel Brooks. Affectionate and well-made spoof of Alfred Hitchcock films with Brooks in good form as Dr Richard H. Thorndyke, the newly-appointed head of the Psycho-Neurotic Institute for the Very, Very Nervous. With Madeleine Kahn, Cloris Leachman and Harvey Korman. Directed by Mel Brooks (14610). Northern Ireland (12.45am): Still Standing
1.15 BBC Select: Executive Business. Club. Management training programmes (68726). Ends at 2.45
5.30 BBC Select: Nuclear Electric - A Powerful Result. Highlights of yesterday's presentation by Nuclear Electric plc of their annual results (62962). Ends at 6.00

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It's amazing how something so small can mean so much



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BBC2

- 6.45 Open University: Energy Sources** — Petroleum (7003515). Ends at 7.10. **8.00 Breakfast News** (5889190)
8.15 England (b/w). Pictures of rural England taken between 1929 and 1934 (r) (3049535) **8.20 Favourite Things**. With Les Dawson (r) (2624157) **8.50 Impressions**. A profile of Yorkshire water-mill owner George Leach (r) (8284193)
9.00 Thundercats (r) (1921374) **9.25 Heartbeat** (r) (1924461) **9.55 Playdays** (r) (2108732) **10.15 Double Dare**. Messy game show (r) (8511428) **10.35 T'n'T**. And Peter visits the Canada section of the World Showcase at Florida's Disneyworld (r) (7698867)
10.50 Film: Venetian Bird (1953, b/w) starring Richard Todd. A private detective, in Venice looking for a missing person, becomes involved in political intrigue. Directed by Ralph Thomas (1775848) **12.45 After Hours**. American entertainment magazine (2610033) **12.45 Maharaja** (1953, b/w) starring Richard Todd (r) (5863138)
1.00 Olympic Grandstand. Tennis, badminton, boxing and the final of the men's air pistol competition, plus news of this morning's swimming and rowing heats (1431428)
1.50 Michael Barry's Choice Cuts. The first of a 20-part series of recipes from the Food and Drink programme (15026022)
2.00 News and weather (5337061) followed by The Kon-Tiki Man (r). (CeeFax) (6520664) **2.30 Simon Bates** (r) (5848)
3.00 News and weather (4663393) followed by Santorini — the First Pompeii (r) (7142003) **3.50 News**, regional news and weather (1714022)
4.00 Cartoons (5134848) **4.10 Pincchio** (r) (2367683) **4.35 The Really Wild Roadshow** (r) (CeeFax) (5427867)
5.00 Newsround (2218757) starring Sylvie Gwyer. Children's drama series (r). (CeeFax) (1966393)
5.35 Olympic Grandstand. Swimming, hockey and yachting (12559374)



Mock hero: Patrick Barlow's Columbus is all at sea (8.00pm)

- 8.00 The True Adventures of Christopher Columbus**.
 ● CHOICE: Those of us who love the combination of Patrick Barlow and Jim Broadbent in the National Theatre of Brent will find that not even a starry cast can make up for the lack of Broadbent in this alternative Columbus spoof. A four-part extravaganza, written and directed by as well as starring Barlow, it's a mock-heroic saga which portrays Columbus as neither heroic nor evil, just a bit ordinary. Barlow's explorer is playfully bumbling to work and he has a wonderful rapport with Miranda Richardson as Isabella, the very guilt-stricken Catholic queen, but actors like Tim Pigott-Smith and Freddie Jones don't seem immediately hilarious to me. There's always an element of pathos in Barlow's work, but here it seems to outweigh the laughs. (CeeFax) (5) (2935)
8.30 Colin's Sandwich. Comedy series starring Mel Brooks as a British Rail worker and aspiring writer (r). (CeeFax) (5) (4770)
9.00 The Best of Saturday Night. The guests are Stephen Fry and, via satellite, stuntman Super Dave Osborne (r) (758577)
9.45 Town Hall Cuts.
 ● CHOICE: The problem about cuts is that they always seem to come across as short, sharp shocks rather than rationalisations made after long and careful consideration. In tonight's turbulent episode of this fly-on-the-wall series, we see what happens when money has to be saved in the Lewisham social services department. After a heated meeting, chairman Clive Jordan tells the department's director John Thompson to detail how he would run the department with two assistant directors instead of the current five. Thompson's response is to come up with a document which says it simply isn't possible. Next thing we know, 16 angry clerks are being told to go instead. At the end of it all, Jordan says miserably: "I've never lost so many friends in such a short period of time." (CeeFax) (590916)
10.30 Newsnight with Franchise Scott (422461)
11.15 Nation. The first of a series of debates on controversial topics between a panel of guests and a studio audience, presented by Trevor Phillips (132596) **11.55 Weather** (204022)
12.00 Open University: The Art of Commerce (69875). Ends 12.30am

- 12.00 Car Wash** (1976). Musical (82659)
2.00pm Little Miss Perfect (1987). A girl is upset when her mother remarries (853)
3.00 Andrew's Story (1986). A rich-kid's expedition goes wrong (7935)
4.00 Under the Bridge. A police man and a boy come to terms with death (9480)
6.00 Ernest Goes to Jail (10am) (6361157)
7.00 The Fabulous Baker Boys (1989). Points Beau and Bill Bridges hire singer Michelle Pfeiffer (2579)
7.40 House Heat (1959). A narcotics squad operates outside the law (785119)
11.45 In the Line of Duty: The Twilight Murders (1991). A car accident (853)
12.00 Newsnight with Franchise Scott (422461)
12.30 Newsnight with Franchise Scott (422461)
12.55 Never Cry Devil (1989). A boy investigates a murder (564057)
1.25 The Fourth Wave (1959). Two soldiers do battle (794471). Ends at 5.25

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

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RADIO 1

- FM Stereo and MW. 4.00am Neale James (FM only) with The Early Breakfast Show 6.00 Simon Mayo 8.00 Radio 1's News with the Pet Shop Boys 11.00 Radio 1's News from the Royal Hall Gardens, Southampton 12.00am News 12.45 John Peel 1.00am Radio 1's News 1.30am Radio 1's News 2.00am Radio 1's News 2.30am Radio 1's News 3.00am Radio 1's News 3.30am Radio 1's News 4.00am Radio 1's News 4.30am Radio 1's News 5.00am Radio 1's News 5.30am Radio 1's News 6.00am Radio 1's News 6.30am Radio 1's News 7.00am Radio 1's News 7.30am Radio 1's News 8.00am Radio 1's News 8.30am Radio 1's News 9.00am Radio 1's News 9.30am Radio 1's News 10.00am Radio 1's News 10.30am Radio 1's News 11.00am Radio 1's News 11.30am Radio 1's News 12.00am Radio 1's News 12.30am Radio 1's News 1.00am Radio 1's News 1.30am Radio 1's News 1.50am Radio 1's News 2.00am Radio 1's News 2.30am Radio 1's News 3.00am Radio 1's News 3.30am Radio 1's News 4.00am Radio 1's News 4.30am Radio 1's News 5.00am Radio 1's News 5.30am Radio 1's 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